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WILLIAM J. SIMMONS. A.M., LL D.
BORN JUNE 24, 1849; DIED OCT. 30, 1890.
FIRST PRESIDENT NATIONAL
BAPTIST CONVENTION.

# WHO'S WHO

## AMONG THE COLORED BAPTISTS OF THE UNITED STATES

VOLUME I.

$1.50 PER COPY.

EDITED BY
SAMUEL WILLIAM BACOTE, A.B., A.M., D.D.
2210 KANSAS AVENUE, KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI.
FOUNDER OF THE NATIONAL BAPTIST YEAR BOOK.

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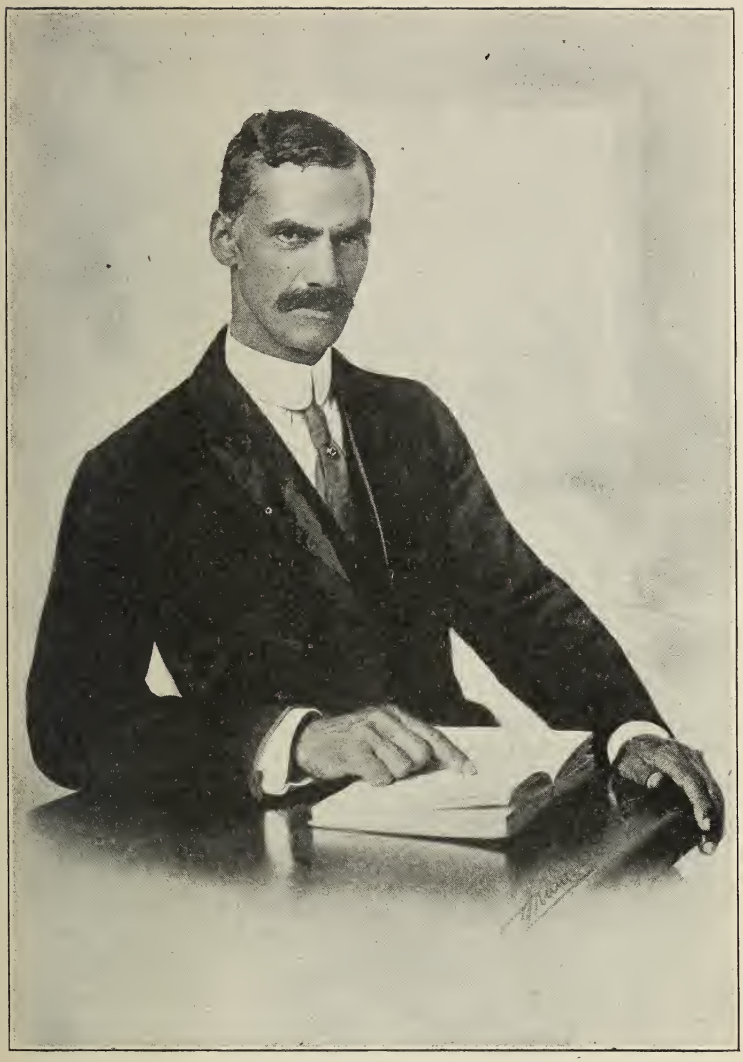

SAMUEL WILLIAM BACOTE,

Statistician National Baptist Convention;
Editor Baptist Year Book.

## *DEDICATION.*

To her—whose every thought is mine,
  Whose faith and hope and love
Inspire my soul with power divine,
  Attracted from above,
To strive to reach a greater height
  Than man could ever gain
Without the aid of right and might,
  United they must reign:
To her—unlike all others, still
  With womanly charms replete,
Who smooths my way with rarest skill,
  With gentle words discreet;
Whose glorious fancies come from far—
  A noble guiding light—
As if the brilliant evening star
  Endowed them with foresight:
To her—whose love a happy fate
  Has given to me in life,
This volume, now, I dedicate
  With all my heart:—
MY WIFE.

# *PREFACE.*

The word "biography," in its broadest, deepest sense, has a higher meaning than that which is derived from superficial analysis. Bi—life—refers not merely to physical existence, but to intellectual vitality and to spiritual being. It implies constant change, growth, progress; for no living thing can remain stationary. It opens out toward a glorious future with limitless possibilities; toward an ever-widening vista that reaches to the Infinite.

A nation's life, or that of a race, is the life of its great men; those who combine in themselves the constructive agencies that comprise the bone and sinew of the people.

To consider the history of a people or of an individual apart from those things that have possessed a dominating influence in the development of character; to fail to give due credit or allowance to natural or hereditary disposition, to environment and to reactionary force, would not only be unjust, but would cause error in the delineation of national or individual genius.

Although personal genius, to a certain extent, is the outcome of social conditions, it remodels the society from which it has evolved. And in so far as it extends beyond the heights attained in the aggregate, thus far does it not only express, but intensify the national type.

In the description of prominent men and women herein recorded the writer has made no attempt at an exhibition of brilliant scholarship, but he has endeavored in a simple presentation of facts to take cognizance of underlying qualities—of causes and incentives—and to point out the high destination of the soul through the proper unfoldment of its moral and intellectual faculties, that younger generations may find inspiration.

The details of what a man has accomplished are not so important to his fellows as are the motives that actuated him, the purposes and determination, the dominant idea, that led to successful effort, and the means by which that idea was shaped or obstructed, whether by natural inclination or by constraining force.

It is impossible to write a complete or exhaustive biography, for there is much which enters into the life of each person that cannot be fully comprehended nor explained. But the author of this work has been interested from boyhood in the subject, and he has felt the spiritual uplift that comes from high aims and an earnest desire to benefit the race. However, he will be amply compensated if the book encourages but one reader to look upward instead of downward; if but a slight impetus is given to racial progress.

No denomination of color has made, since the Civil War, a record that compares favorably with that of the colored Baptists. They emerged from slavery with a numerical strength far less than that now found in any one of the Middle Western States. To-day, through the ceaseless efforts of such men as the lamented Dupee, Hamilton, Foster, McAlpine, Johnson, Brockington, Holmes, Jasper, Simmons and Brooks, whose sketches are to appear in "Landmarks of History," and such living pioneers as Pardee, Massey, A. R. Griggs and D. Sawyers, together with a large number of younger men and women, many of whose histories appear in this volume, the denomination has a total membership of 2,444,055, with approximately 18,000 ministers and 18,000 church edifices, valued at $25,000,000.

The colored Baptists have demonstrated the truth of the assertion that the real price of labor is knowledge and virtue, of which wealth and credit are signs; and although the signs may be counterfeited, that which they represent cannot be imitated.

It is a source of satisfaction to introduce to one another,

through these pages, new recruits, as well as many whose names have long appeared upon the roll of fame—men and women of noble occupations and callings. In the compilation of this work it was found impracticable to place the subjects in alphabetical order, having been made up as the material was secured.

Volumes II. and III., which are to appear soon, will contain sketches of other representatives equally as distinguished as those found in this number.

The author is indebted to Professor J. Dallas Bowser, who read the manuscript and offered friendly suggestions; to Mr. C. Brown, and to others who tendered assistance; to Simmons' "Men of Mark," from which much information relative to pioneers was gleaned; and to Rev. Dr. E. A. Wilson, of Muskogee, Oklahoma, under whose able endorsement this book makes its bow to the public, in full confidence that the lofty ideals embodied in the subjects of these articles justify their publication.

SAMUEL WILLIAM BACOTE.

2210 Kansas Avenue,
Kansas City, Missouri.
August 1, 1913.

# INTRODUCTION.

History only stoops to notice men with a song, men who have a message, men who have a mission to perform. They who have trodden the highest peaks of human accomplishment have been those whose names were linked inseparably to great epochs and great deeds. Like the stars of the firmament, they may differ in their brightness; but, unlike the stars, they are not too numerous to be counted.

In these grand and sublime times, men whose names live, and will forever dawn the pages of history, are those who perform no witchcraft or work no miracles to reach the lofty planes of greatness—but, on the other hand, must march to the orders of the century's call, "Do, serve, or die."

We desire to present to the reader a star of the first magnitude: a prolific writer, an erudite scholar, a prince among church-builders, a successful pastor and an able expounder of the gospel.

The subject of this sketch, Samuel W. Bacote, A.B., A.M., B.D., D.D., saw the light of day February 1, 1866, at Society Hill, South Carolina. His parents, Dembo and Harriet Bacote, both rocked in the cradle of slavery, were highly respected and loved by white and black of the entire community. His father possessed superior ability to that of most of the slaves, being able to read and write, and was honored as deputy sheriff of Darlington County for a number of years. His mother died when Samuel was only three months old, leaving him to the care of his father and grandmother.

At the early age of seven he was sent to the public school and soon showed remarkable ability in reading, orthography, penmanship and mathematics.

At seventeen years of age he entered Benedict College, South Carolina. Having only $17.00 in his pockets, one suit

of clothes and sockless feet, he was easily recognized as the poorest boy on the campus. With poverty staring him in the face, he was unmoved, but pressed forward with dauntless courage and tireless zeal until he had reached the goal.

Starting in the lowest class, working at odd hours, he succeeded in three years in graduating from the Normal Department and was elevated to the position of private secretary to the president and director of all the classes in penmanship and bookkeeping. In 1888 he graduated from the higher English course of the school. He then took the public examination and received a first-grade certificate at Anderson Court House.

After serving for one year as principal of Johnston Academy, Edgefield County, South Carolina, he resigned to enter Shaw University, Raleigh, North Carolina, where he studied for one year.

In the fall of 1889 he matriculated in the Theological Seminary, Richmond, Virginia, and graduated May 17, 1892, with honors, having distinguished himself in Hebrew and Greek, also serving as assistant teacher during the entire course.

In 1892 he was called to the pastorate of the Second Baptist Church, Marion, Alabama, and elected principal of the Baptist Academy. Here he succeeded in a short time in paying off a long-standing debt of the school and raised it to a higher standard, both in the financial and scholastic world.

March 3, 1895, he received a unanimous call to the Second Baptist Church, Kansas City, Missouri. In less than a year he succeeded in canceling a debt of four thousand dollars. Plans were laid for the erection of a superstructure on a large basement, and during the second year of his pastorate he had raised $14,000. In a few years a magnificent edifice was reared as a monument for the Negro Baptists, an ornament and a blessing for the race. During the eighteen years of Dr. Bacote's pastorate he has raised more than $100,000, all of which has been properly expended on the new church, which now stands free of all indebtedness.

Still thirsting and hungering after knowledge and realizing that "the mind is the standard of the man," the Rev. Mr. Bacote in 1896 matriculated at Kansas City University (white), Kansas City, Kansas, and graduated with the degree of B.A.; two years later he received the degree of M.A. from the same college. While pursuing his classical course at Kansas City University he was a favorite with his classmates, being the only colored member of the class and the first Negro graduate of the university. Upon several occasions while a student he was honored with favors, and at one time was the principal speaker to address one of the college fraternities. In 1904 Kansas City University conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Divinity.

In 1901 he was elected statistician of the National Baptist Convention. He at once set about his work, bringing it to a high standard, editing the National Baptist Year Book; this so efficiently systematized the various departments of our denominational enterprises, making it an easy matter for any one at a glance through the columns of the Year Book to tell exactly the standing of Negro Baptists of the world.

In 1900 Doctor Bacote was united in holy wedlock to Miss Lucy Bledsoe, Topeka, Kansas. Mrs. Bacote is a most accomplished musician, having studied at the Conservatory of Boston and holding the Bachelor of Music degree from the Conservatory of Kansas City University. She is at present musical director of the choir of the Second Baptist Church, and in every respect is a helpmeet; refined in bearing, gentle in manners, sweet in disposition and helpful to all, Mrs. Bacote is the silent force that has greatly assisted her husband in attaining the prominence and honors which he holds to-day. Two bright little children bless their home life and give them joy and happiness.

In 1892 Doctor Bacote was a delegate to the Parliament of Religions in connection with the Columbian Exposition. In 1910 he was a delegate with others of the National Baptist

Convention at the World's Missionary Conference, Edinburgh, Scotland.

While abroad he toured Europe, visiting the following points of interest: Glasgow, Dublin, Liverpool, London, Manchester, Paris, Modena, Munich, Geneva, Lucerne, Genoa, Rome, Naples, Mount Vesuvius, Milan, Florence, Venice and Oberammergau.

Dr. Bacote is sending forth his first volume, "Who's Who Among the Colored Baptists." We pray that you will not view this book with a critic's eye, but as you read it for information that you will be able to know the lives and scan the deeds of some of the most brilliant men and women of our great denomination, the largest and most intelligent in the world.

For such a book as this and for the untiring efforts of the author to hand to coming generations this heritage of Negro Baptists, he has erected for himself a monument more enduring than the Pyramids of Egypt or the pride and pomp of marble bust and stone. He has built a monument of honor and virtue, a monument that will last when

"The seas shall waste, the skies to smoke decay,
Rocks fall to dust, and mountains melt away."

E. ARLINGTON WILSON,
*Pastor of First Baptist Church.*

Muskogee, Oklahoma,
May 30, 1913.

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## *REVEREND ELIAS CAMP MORRIS, Ph.D., D.D.*

*Farmer — Statesman — Minister — Presiding Over 2,400,000 Baptists—Executive Officer World Baptist Alliance and General Convention of North America.*

Because of his official position, his achievements up the ladder of denominational greatness, it is befitting that the sketch of the President of the Baptist family should open the series of articles, "Who 's Who."

The Reverend Elias Camp Morris, who has mapped his own independent orbit through the educational, political and business world, was born in Murray County, Georgia, on May 7, 1855, to James and Cora Morris, saints of ante-bellum days. Young Morris, although unable to shoulder the gun and fight in the ranks of the Union Army, remembers well the conflict between the blue and the gray, and takes delight in telling of his experiences during those exciting times.

Dr. Morris attended Sunday-school at an early age, and he professed religion and joined the Morning Star Baptist Church, Stevenson, Alabama, in 1874. The same year he was

called to the ministry. As he was extraordinarily bright, his parents gave him the advantage of such public school education as was available at that time, and later placed him under competent private instructors until he was prepared to take lectures and ministerial studies at Roger Williams University. At that institution his close application to study and manly deportment won the admiration of his superiors. And Morris grew as grows the cedar, throwing its branches higher and wider into the circumambient air.

On November 27, 1884, Dr. Morris was joined in matrimony to Miss Fannie E. Austin, a refined young student of Rust High School, Huntsville; and to the happy union gifted children have been born.

Dr. Morris, naturally endowed with remarkable talent as a speaker, was unable to meet the demands upon his time, and after reflection and prayer, he responded to the call of the Centennial Baptist Church, Helena, Arkansas, in 1878, which pastorate he has held continuously to the present. He has built up the membership of the church until it has become one of the largest and most influential in the entire connection.

For thirty years he has presided over the Arkansas Baptist Convention, which has frequently raised as much as $15,000 during the annual session. He has been instrumental in the founding of the Arkansas College, Little Rock, Arkansas, an institution valued at $100,000. In 1879 he and W. W. Colley planned the Foreign Mission Convention of Baptists. Dr. Morris has been school trustee at Helena for many years, and trustee of Arkansas College for twenty-five years.

Eighteen years ago the attention of the Baptists of the country was attracted by his force and magnetism, and by his ability as a worker, and they elected him to the presidency of the National Convention, which he has unremittingly served since, bringing that body forward as the largest and wealthiest of the race. Under his administration a publishing house worth $400,000 has been established, more than a hundred foreign mission stations have been formed, and active affilia-

tion has been created with the Southern Baptist, General Convention of North America and the World Baptist Alliance.

Dr. Morris is a member of the Executive Boards of both the General Convention of North America and the World Baptist Alliance, taking an energetic part in the deliberations of those organizations and making such recommendations in the interest of the National Baptist Convention as he deems proper.

He has been editor of the *National Baptist Union,* the *Arkansas Vanguard,* and of several other periodicals, and his articles have been eagerly read because of the vigorous manner in which they were written. Their depth of thought also appealed to the public. Dr. Morris is a frequent contributor to many weekly and daily publications, conducted for both white and colored people.

The doctor has traveled extensively in Europe, thereby obtaining a wider view of important subjects. He was chairman of the delegation of colored Baptists that attended the World Baptist Alliance at London, England, in June, 1905, and served in a like capacity when that deliberate body met in Philadelphia in 1911; and was instrumental in having a member of the National Baptist Convention elected a vice-president.

In addition to his religious duties, Dr. Morris looks after the political welfare of the race. He has represented the Negroes of his adopted State in the Republican National Convention since 1884, with the exception of one convention. He is a statesman broad in culture and experience and he occupies a high position among the most distinguished men of modern times.

Years ago the State University, at Louisville, Kentucky, conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Divinity, and the Alabama State Normal University, Huntsville, gave him the degree of Ph.D. He has lived up to the traditions of both institutions, adding luster to their names and acquitting himself with credit.

Although Dr. Morris makes no display of what he is worth financially, his check is good for large amounts in any bank with which he is acquainted.

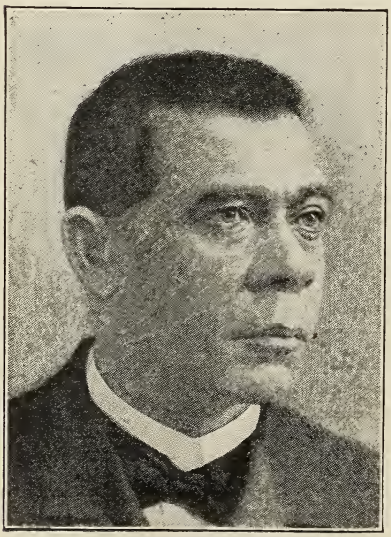
Dr. Morris presides with grace and efficiency over the deliberations of more than two million members. And he is held in the highest esteem, possessing almost unlimited influence over brethren in the various walks of life. He is a great sermonizer, a convincing orator, an entertaining lecturer, and a trustworthy adviser. He has reached the point where he can render the greatest service to his constituents and give to the world an exhibition of that true leadership for which such men as Simmons, Douglass and Price stood unflinchingly, and of which Washington, Boyd, Dubois and others are examples that now stand out pre-eminently.

Dr. Morris is still in the thick of the fight for principle, justice and righteousness. But when the conflict has ended, and he takes his well-earned rest, in the evening of life, may the good that he has accomplished reflect upon his own heart the hope and courage and joy that he has brought to others. That a boy can advance from penury to the summit of the world's greatness is well revealed in the career of this brilliant leader.

## *BOOKER T. WASHINGTON, LL.D.*

*Architect of His Own Fortune—Educator—Author—Philosopher—Traveler—Leveler of Race Prejudice—Principal of the World's Greatest Industrial College.*

The name of Booker T. Washington, architect of his own fortune, the most illustrious character the Negro race has ever produced and one of the world's greatest immortals, is a synonym in every American household for wisdom and culture, deep thinking and philosophy.



The qualities that have brought the renowned teacher and writer prominently before all people are not dependent upon race, color or condition in life. They are faculties implanted by the Creator in those who are designed by Providence to become the instruments of justice and progress, that millions of human beings may receive the impetus to work out their destiny, and that a whole race may attain the heights of mental, moral and physical excellence.

Mr. Washington was born on April 18, 1856, to Mrs. Jane Ferguson, of Hale's Ford, a Virginia hamlet, in Franklin

County. At the close of the Civil War he went with his mother and step-brother to West Virginia, where he entered the public schools, earning his board and lodging by working each morning and evening before and after school hours. While there he was happily converted and united with a little Baptist church, in which he has ever retained his membership. His mother's death, shortly after he reached West Virginia, was doubtless responsible for the awakening of his best impulses and highest aspirations, which have brought him, through the development of self-reliance, to the forefront of authors and educators. He started for Hampton Institute in the fall of 1872, making the trip historic by overcoming almost insurmountable obstacles. Graduating in 1875 as the leading member of his class, he taught school at Malden, West Virginia, for some time. Later, feeling that a more extended course would be necessary in order to fully equip him for a career of usefulness, the young man took especial instruction at Wayland Seminary, Washington, District of Columbia, after which he returned to Hampton as a professor.

In 1880 the Alabama Legislature established the Tuskegee Institute. Washington having been recommended for the position by General S. C. Armstrong, under whom he had studied, he was placed in charge as the only teacher. The State had appropriated but $3,000 for building and maintenance, yet, step by step, Washington guided the affairs of the little school through the crucial periods of its history with unusual ability. To-day it is an institution with a valuation of $1,295,216, with an endowment of $1,811,647, and proudly boasts of 1,750 students and a faculty of 193 members, representing the best thought of every leading university.

Dr. Washington believes in the training of mind and heart and hand—the proper balance, through which the most satisfactory results are always obtained. And as the ocean washes every shore and clasps every land with all-embracing arms, so has his influence made itself felt by men and women in every

clime. He has made a marked impression upon public opinion; he has softened or removed prejudice and awakened hopefulness in relation to the solution of a problem encompassed with difficulty. His rare qualifications have brought him international fame. He has traveled through many countries, making a study of racial problems and comparing the Afro-Americans with others who have experienced the weight of injustice. The crowned heads of Europe as well as the highest officials of our Republic have honored themselves by entertaining this remarkable product of modern civilization.

In his book, "The Man Farthest Down; A Record of Observation and Study in Europe," Dr. Washington gives particular attention to the agricultural classes. His ideas on intensive cultivation of the soil are most important. "The Story of the Negro; The Rise of the Race from Slavery," has stimulated those who needed encouragement to acquire habits of thrift, economy, education, Christian character and industrial skill. Dr. Washington's contributions to *The Outlook* and other periodicals have been widely circulated and read. They have added materially to the luster of his reputation. He is clear, concise and unaffected, as are all fine writers, and entirely free from exaggerated flowers of speech and lurid phrases. It is said that one reveals himself in his writings. The glimpses of the real Dr. Washington are most inspiring, for they disclose an unusual combination of strength and purpose —a blending of heart, intellect and soul.

In the words of Dr. Curry: "The life of Booker T. Washington cannot be written. Incidents of birth, parentage, schooling, early struggles, later triumphs may be detailed with accuracy, but the life has been so incorporated, transfused into such a multitude of other lives—broadening views, exalting ideals, moulding character—that one may not know the deep and beneficent influence exerted, and no pen can describe it."

Though he was born in a log cabin, only twelve by sixteen feet in size, and without windows, the light of inspiration

penetrated his soul; though in childhood he slept upon a pallet of rags, invisible messengers from above filled him with determination and power that he might lead his brethren, as did Moses of old, into the promised land—the land of peace and prosperity, where intelligence rules. Of what consequence to him were personal discomforts when a down-trodden people was pleading for relief from the bondage of inefficiency? Was not his real existence bound up in theirs? Did he not hear the call of duty—to obliterate the scars made by the yoke of oppression? No self-sacrifice could be too great.

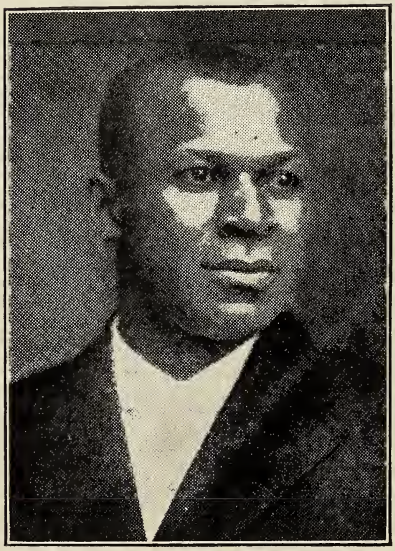
It has been shown that eras revolve around an individual. Booker T. Washington, the sage of Tuskegee, will go down in history as one who gave distinction to the period in which he lived.

Doctor Washington was married to Miss Fannie N. Smith, of Malden, West Virginia, in 1882. She was a graduate of Hampton Institute, whose *Alumni Journal* said of her and Mr. Washington: "Their happy union had done much to lighten the arduous duties devolving upon him in the management of the school." One child was born to them. Death claimed Mrs. Washington in May, 1884. In October, 1893, Professor Washington married Miss Maggie James Murray, an alumna of Fisk University, who went to the Institute as a teacher in 1889. She has, in every way, proven herself to be equally interested in the advancement of Tuskegee, giving especial attention to the care of the girls. Several children have been born to this second union.

## *W. G. PARKS, D.D., LL.D.*

*Eloquent Preacher—Race Advocate—Financier—Vice-President National Baptist Convention—Explorer.*

Among the men making rapid progress and shedding luster upon the pages of history to be read with increasing interest by upnborn generations is the man whose career we now give to the reader.



Wesley G. Parks was born in Lincoln County, Tennessee, on May 7th, 1858, to George Washington and Annie Caroline Parks.

After taking the public school course, Dr. Parks took private instruction, becoming a highly educated man. His degree of D.D. was conferred by Roger Williams University, May 12th, 1905; that of LL.D. was conferred by Virginia Theological Seminary and College, on May 27, 1912.

He was converted in November, 1874; licensed to preach in August, 1877; ordained in July, 1879, at Nashville, Tennessee, in the Spruce Street Baptist Church, the Reverend N. G. Merry officiating.

Dr. Parks has filled various positions of trust in a satis-

factory manner; among them: pastor of Olive Branch Baptist Church, Nashville; pastor of Mount Zion, Murfreesboro; Mount Zion, Woodbury; Mount Zion, Shelbyville; First Baptist Church, Chattanooga; Mount Zion, Knoxville, Tennessee; and the Union Baptist Church, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, his present location, to which he was called in March, 1905. At the time he took charge the church had a membership of 1800; it now has an enthusiastic congregation of nearly 2900.

Dr. Parks served the Tennessee Convention as secretary for a number of years, and finally as president. He also represented the same State as vice-president of the National Baptist Convention. He was elected president of the Jubilee Commission of the National Baptist Convention in 1905, and he was elected vice-president at large of the National Baptist Convention at New Orleans in 1910, which position he now holds.

Dr. Parks has traveled extensively, having visited England, Scotland, Italy, Egypt and Palestine.

The church of which he is pastor is out of debt, having canceled a mortgage of $9,000 in one year and five months under his guidance. The membership is composed of fine, intelligent people, who are a credit to their leader. A new site has been purchased, upon which it is intended to erect a church edifice worth $28,000. The site was bought for $28,000, making the entire cost of the property amount to $56,000.

Dr. Parks is a man of action—he does things but he is modest to a fault about exploiting his own achievements. However, he is recognized throughout the country, as well as in foreign lands, as an Afro-American of unusual ability as a speaker, a writer, a financier, and a moulder of opinion.

He has come in contact with people of all nationalities and has grown broad and deep in thought, as well as polished in manner. His consistent Christian life, his refusal to become self-centered, his devotion to his people, have endeared him to all who know him.

Our denomination numbers many brilliant men and

women among its members, but there is none more honorable than the distinguished minister and race advocate, Dr. W. G. Parks.

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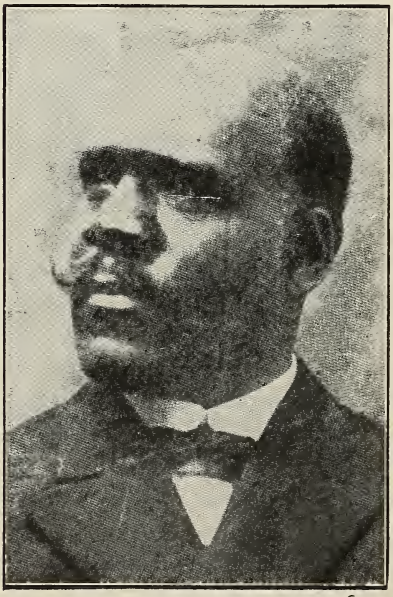
## *CHARLES HENRY CLARK, LL.D.*

*Farmer—School-Teacher—Disciplinarian—Co-Founder of the National Baptist Publishing House—Financier—Man of the Plain People—Great Pastor.*

The Reverend Charles Henry Clark, whose church in Nashville, Tennessee, is the hostess of the National Baptist Convention for 1913, is one of the really great and interesting characters of the National Baptist Convention. He was born October 15, 1855, in Christian County, Kentucky. His father was unknown to him, he having escaped across Mason and Dixon's line while Charles was a mere babe. Later his mother married Mr. Jerry Clark, who joined the Union Army in 1860 and remained until 1864, when he rejoined her in Trigg County, Kentucky. For some time they farmed at this point; but feeling the need of better educational facilities for Charles and an elder son, George, Mr. Clark moved



to Hopkinsville, where he placed the children in school. But poverty soon forced him to leave the city and re-enter farm life five miles away. At this time George, an enterprising boy, who was nearing his twenty-first birthday, determined that distance should prove no hindrance and poverty no barrier to his education, resolved to walk to town daily to school and pay both his tuition and that of his brother Charles. For three years they remained in school, winning prizes and exhibiting rare attainments. So rapid was Charles' progress in school that he soon made good in the county examination, was awarded a teacher's certificate, and engaged in successful teaching for some time at the Mount Zion Baptist Church, near Hopkinsville.

But God had another mission for him; and this new calling began in 1876, when he felt the forgiveness of his sins and joined the Green Hill Baptist Church, of which the Rev. G. G. Garrett was then pastor. He was at once made church clerk and a deacon. As an officer he was active and tireless in the prosecution of his duties. Soon he was licensed to preach and went from plantation to plantation, exercising his gifts and swaying men by the charm of his voice and his searching presentation of the Scriptures.

It was not until 1880 that Mr. Clark relinquished teaching and devoted his efforts to the ministry. During that year he married Miss Maria Bridges, of Canton, Trigg County, Kentucky. Five children have blessed the happy union—Grant, Mattie, Mary, George, and Willie.

The Canton Baptist Church called him to ordination in September, 1880. He served at the same time the Rolling Mill and Center Furnace Baptist Churches until 1884, when the Shepherd Street Baptist Church, Princeton, Kentucky, offered him her pulpit. May 1, 1886, he accepted the pastorate of the Fourth Street Baptist Church, Owensboro; and for seven years and nine months he led that great church forward as it had not been for years. He was called from Kentucky to his present pastorate at Nashville, one of the most flourish-

ing and progressive in the entire connection and one that gave the National Baptist Convention a most magnificent entertainment in September, 1899.

Mr. Clark is an organizer of men. He is one of the founders of the National Baptist Publishing House; for it was in his parlor that the plans were drawn and from his bank account a contribution was given to start a concern that has become the wonder of the age. And Dr. Clark has been continuously elected chairman of the board of managers of that corporation since its organization; and much of the success that has followed the operations of that enterprise has been due to his judicious advice and personal efforts. As chairman of the Publishing House Board, it devolved upon him, as the right-hand man of Dr. Boyd, to advise ways and means of co-operation with the Southern Baptist Convention in mission work among the Southern colored Baptists.

Dr. Clark has served as president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention and as commissioner appointed by the Governor of Tennessee to the Educational Convention of Negro Leaders, and is at present president of the National Baptist Sunday-school Congress, an active member of the Board of Trustees of Roger Williams University and of Howe Institute, a director of the Penny Savings Bank of Nashville, and treasurer of the Stone River Association. He has shown great executive ability throughout his career of thirty-six years, and the confidence and esteem in which he is held by his co-laborers in all the responsible positions to which he has been called are well-nigh idolatrous.

The degree of Doctor of Divinity was conferred upon him by the Cadiz (Kentucky) Normal and Theological College, of which the Rev. W. H. McRidley, LL.D., is president; and that of LL.D. by Roswell College, New Mexico, Dr. J. H. May president.

In whatever capacity Dr. Clark has served, success has followed him. As a public school-teacher, he was loved and respected; as pastor, he has proved a signal success, having raised

the financial, moral, intellectual, and spiritual standing of the people to a high degree of efficiency; as a disciplinarian, he is the equal of any man of the denomination; as an evangelist, thousands have been coverted under his preaching. Eminent as a Bible student, great as a public speaker, thorough as a leader of men, and the idol of the eighteen hundred members of the Mount Olive Baptist Church, Nashville, Dr. Clark, with his devoted wife, will live in the memory of friends long after he is no more.

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## *PROFESSOR RICHARD B. HUDSON, A.B., A.M.*

*Right Worshipful Endowment Treasurer Grand Lodge (Masonic) of Alabama—Highly Honored Lay Member of the Baptist Church—Bank Cashier—Educator of Merit—Delegate to World's Missionary Conference—Secretary of National Baptist Convention.*

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When a man's soul is on a par with those of the best and noblest, he may, if he will, take his place with them, whatever may have been his antecedents. Reared in the atmosphere of means sufficient to take him through school independent of self-help, Richard B. Hudson early decided to cast his lot with those who become builders of their own fortune.

Richard B. Hudson was born at Uniontown, Perry County, Alabama, in 1866, to Richard and Millie Hudson. The parents possessed means to gratify the ambition of their son for a higher education, and after the completion of the public school course in Union-

town, he was sent to Selma University, where he finished the normal course at the early age of fifteen, immediately entering the college department for classical culture, and after four years' study, graduated at the head of his class with the degree of A.B.

Mr. Hudson's aptitude and his earnestness in the pursuit of knowledge procured for him the favor of the school authorities, and he was given employment as a student teacher. Mr. Hudson studied subsequently at Chautauqua, New York.

As principal of the Selma city school, now Clark School, nearly a quarter of a century ago, he brought to his work all his rich native endowments and long years of training. In recognition of his peculiar fitness for the work, he has been continued year after year in the position, and new honors have been conferred upon him.

Mr. Hudson has evinced remarkable business ability and has conducted a private enterprise—a coal and wood yard—in addition to performing his duties as a teacher and as cashier of the Selma branch of the Alabama Penny and Savings Bank.

He is a member of the Baptist church at Selma, and has been for a number of years the recording secretary of the National Baptist Convention; he is also secretary of the Alabama State Baptist Convention.

He has traveled in Europe, visiting Edinburgh, Scotland, as a delegate to the World Missionary Conference. From that city he went to Glasgow, Dublin, Liverpool, London, Paris, Geneva, Genoa, Rome, Naples, Mount Vesuvius, Florence, Milan, Venice, Oberammergau, and other points upon the Continent. The editor with others who accompanied him on the trip abroad found him conversant with the history of various points of interest and a valuable source of information to the stranger in a strange land.

One of the greatest honors that has fallen to the lot of Mr. Hudson is the office of endowment treasurer and secretary of the Grand Lodge (Masonic) of Alabama. The place

is one that could be filled satisfactorily by a thoroughly trustworthy person only. Mr. Hudson has proved faithful to the trust and with his splendid business ability he has managed the affairs of the Lodge in a most competent manner. His sagacity, tact, integrity, and patience have rendered him an exceedingly valuable officer.

Mr. Hudson is married, and his wife, Mrs. Irene M. Hudson, is an intelligent and sympathetic companion. Two children have been born to the union, one of whom is now a sophomore in the Atlanta Baptist College; the other is a pupil in the Selma public schools.

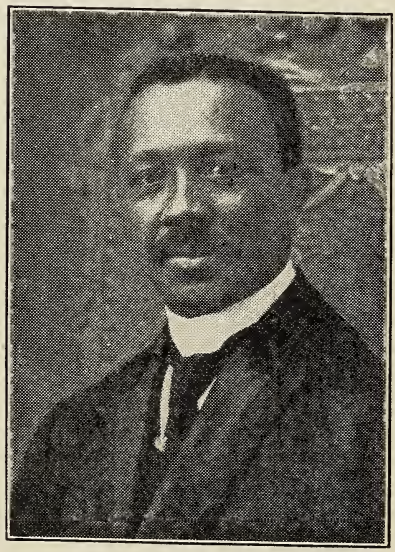
Mr. Hudson is a close observer and a pleasing speaker. He is also what is often termed a "good mixer" with men. His opinions on school management are widely sought and he is considered an authority on that subject.

He is a brilliant historian and one of the ablest of the race's advocates in the entire South.

## *WILLIAM THOMAS AMIGER, A.B., A.M., B.Th., D.D., LL.D.*

*Pastor — Educator — Author—Theologian—Master of Seven Languages — President of State University, Louisville, Kentucky.*

One of the strongest men of letters, character and industry of which the race may well boast is William Thomas Amiger, son of Rowland and Margaret (Alexander) Amiger, born in Culpepper, Virginia, July 16th, 1870. Early in life he became a Christian and united with the Baptist Church, the principles of which he maintains unremittingly.



Mr. Amiger, always alert, affable and studious, was a favorite in the public schools of Culpepper. He was not afraid of hard work and succeeded in completing the graded and high school courses at a very early age.

Believing that God had in store for their son a great mission in life, the parents of Mr. Amiger sent him to western New York, where he entered the State Normal College at Genesee and prepared for college. While at Genesee he again proved his ability to grapple with difficult subjects of the

course of study and was more than a match for his white competitors.

In 1895 Mr. Amiger entered Lincoln University, Chester, Pennsylvania, from which he graduated with honor in 1899, receiving the degree of Bachelor of Arts. Two years later he graduated from the Department of Theology, taking the degree of Bachelor of Sacred Theology, and in the same year the Master of Arts degree was conferred upon him.

But so great was the young student's thirst for knowledge and so well did he appreciate the demands of the age for thoroughly prepared leaders, in whatever capacity they served, that he specialized in Hebrew and Greek at Newton Theological Institution. And he reads those languages to-day with the accuracy of an author and interprets them with the intelligence of the learned Jew or the scholarly Greek.

This learned apostle was called from Newton to the pastorate of the Third Baptist Church, Springfield, Massachusetts. For five years he led the people "into green pastures and beside the still waters," bringing the congregation up to a high degree of efficiency in all departments of denominational work.

In 1908 the trustees of State University, Louisville, Kentucky, were in great need of a man to succeed the lamented Doctor Charles L. Purce as president. They wanted a man who not only possessed great scholarship and character, but a man who could see far and wide, whose youth, courage and executive ability would make the institution commensurate with its name. Amiger was selected, and the new buildings erected, improved courses of study adopted, the large faculty employed and the many successful graduates sent forth demonstrate the wisdom of their choice.

In recognition of his brilliant career, his Alma Mater conferred the degree of Doctor of Divinity upon him in June, 1909. The Central Law School of Louisville, Kentucky, made him Legum Doctor in 1912.

Doctor Amiger's work as an author, educator and the-

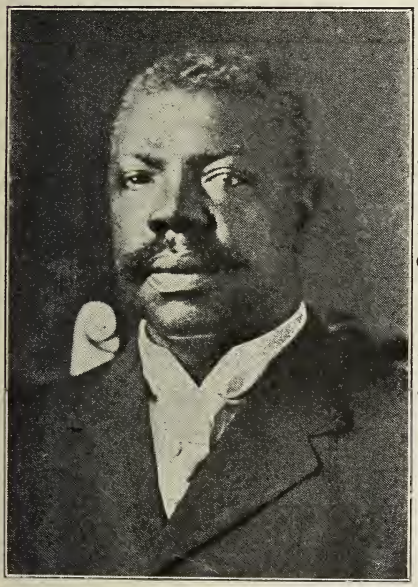
ologian has attracted wide-spread attention, and his books—"The Hands of Jesus," "Studies in Anthropology," "Miracles of the Messiah," and "Inductive and Deductive Hebrew Lessons"—have distinguished him as a deep thinker, and their wide circulation illustrates their value and the great popularity of their author. Written with great clearness and brevity and with such simplicity of language that even a child can understand and benefit by the truths which they expound, they bring their author at once to the forefront among the literati of the world.

Having studied the needs of the people and labored untiringly for their mental, moral, religious and industrial progress, equipping his students with valuable knowledge which enables them to go forth in their chosen professions with diligence and effectiveness, Doctor Amiger's name and deeds will go down in history as one who has served the Master faithfully and well.

In 1892 Miss Eleanor Green, of Castleton, Virginia, became Doctor Amiger's wife. Being well educated, thoroughly abreast of the times, Mrs. Amiger has nobly seconded every effort put forward by her distinguished husband and has a just right to share the honors he has achieved.

## *A. R. ROBINSON, D.D.*

*The Man Who Never Fails—Chairman Foreign Mission Board —Vice-President World Baptist Alliance—Financier—Great Preacher.*



One of the very successful ministers still on the youthful side of life is the dashing and very intrepid Abraham R. Robinson, of Pennsylvania. He hails from that mother of secessionists, South Carolina. And Doctor Robinson is somewhat of a secessionist himself, for he breaks away from iron-clad rules and precedents and introduces methods of his own that have always led to success, whether in the pastorate or other organizations over which he has been called to preside. In school he was ever ready for a frolic or a fight, whether with some knotty problem in mathematics or some haughty fellow on the campus who invaded his rights. He was known as an expert athlete and could box with the willpower of a Johnson or wrestle with the courage and inspiration of a Gotch, and was always a favorite among the students.

The parents of the Reverend A. R. Robinson were well-

to-do farmers and devout Christians, the father was a deacon of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, in the town of Florence, South Carolina, and served in that capacity from early life to the time of his death, in 1911; hence the son was surrounded from his very birth with strong religious influences.

From the public schools of what was Darlington County, South Carolina, Dr. Robinson passed into the graded schools of Florence, after which he was sent to Benedict College, at Columbia, South Carolina, finishing his course in that institution in 1889. He then took a post-graduate course, and was called, in the same year, to Silver Spring Baptist Church at Pendleton, South Carolina; he was also called, in 1900, to Saint Paul Baptist Church at Laurens, South Carolina, and served the two churches, alternately, for ten years, when he gave up the church at Pendleton, taking in its place the church at Union, South Carolina.

At Pendleton he built a beautiful church and parsonage and a first-class school-house for the colored children. He possessed great influence with both white and colored people, and his departure was deeply regretted.

At Laurens he built three churches on the same spot. The first was too small for the increasing congregation, and it was torn down and a larger one was erected, which was wrecked by a storm. Undismayed, Dr. Robinson called his army together and with the aid of the white people of that city a more beautiful church soon replaced the one destroyed.

More than seven hundred persons united with the church during his pastorate, and he left the congregation free from debt. The same was true of both Pendleton and Union churches.

Going to Anderson, South Carolina, Dr. Robinson built a brick structure—one of the largest in the State—and added seven hundred and twenty-five to the membership. He also built a large two-story parsonage and made the grounds about the church the most beautiful in the city. From there he went to Chester, Pennsylvania, where the Baptists were divided into

three congregations, worshiping at different places. In ten months he succeeded in uniting the churches. Six hundred and fifty were received into the church and $18,859 raised; and when Dr. Robinson left the town his people had $4,000 on interest.

From Chester he was called to the historic Shiloh Baptist Church at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Taking charge on the first Sunday in May, 1912, he raised on that day $363.75. A number of persons were received into the church on the same date. The first month $1,150 was collected and the mortgage lifted. Shiloh is one of the largest and finest colored churches in Philadelphia.

Dr. Robinson has traveled extensively in England, France, Germany and Italy. He was a delegate to the World Missionary Conference at Edinburgh, Scotland, in June, 1910. He was elected vice-president of the World Baptist Alliance at Philadelphia in June, 1911, as the representative of the National Baptist Convention. He is essentially a great preacher, a builder and financier, and is destined to occupy a still greater place in our reforms.

Dr. Robinson is married and has a happy, congenial, intelligent family, and the distinction which he has achieved is largely due to his affable wife, Mrs. Rachel Robinson, an alumna of Benedict College.

Dr. Robinson believes in the future of the race, and is working diligently to the end that the Afro-American people may, as a whole, be prosperous, well educated and happy.

## *REVEREND CHARLES HENRY PARRISH, A.B., A.M., D.D., F.R.H.S.*

*President of a University—Delegate to World Baptist Congress—Holy Land Traveler—Chairman of Foreign Mission Board—Magnetic Preacher.*

The Reverend Charles Henry Parrish, son of Hiram and Henrietta Parrish, was born at Lexington, Kentucky, on April 18, 1859. The father was a slave teamster and the mother was a seamstress. Both were earnest Christians, the former being deacon of the First Baptist Church in his home city.

Young Parrish became alive to great religious truths at an early age, and united with the Baptist Church when he was twelve years old. He soon interested himself in Sunday-school work, and did excellent service as a teacher.

He studied nights, while acting as porter, at different places, as occasion would permit.

Dr. Parrish matriculated in State University, over which the eminent Dr. W. J. Simmons presided at that time. But death cast a gloom over his prospects by taking away his father, then at a later period his mother, and finally a much-loved sister of thirteen summers.

Dr. Parrish was employed as janitor in the city while he pursued his studies at State University. But he proved him-

self a man of ability, keeping up with his classes, and graduating from the Academic Department in two years. He was awarded a gold medal in acknowledgment of his scholarship. He afterward received the degree of A.B., and became a teacher of Greek in the school.

Dr. Parrish has frequently represented his State at national gatherings, both white and colored. In 1887 he bore the greetings of the National Baptist Convention to the Southern Baptist Convention. In 1905 he was a messenger to the World Baptist Alliance, held in London, England, and while abroad he visited the Holy Land.

One of Dr. Parrish's greatest achievements was the establishment of Eckstein Norton University, Cane Spring, Kentucky. It is an institution of marked influence, having sent forth graduates into every field of usefulness. Its founder is still president.

So distinguished has Dr. Parrish become as an educator that several institutions of learning have conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Divinity. In view of his original researches in Palestine he was made a Fellow in the British Royal Historical Society in 1912.

He is also pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Louisville, Kentucky, and is constantly in demand as a lecturer and preacher. For several years he was chairman of the Foreign Mission Board, once located in Louisville, but recently removed to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

He is a brilliant writer—one of the contributors to the *Baptist Union Review.*

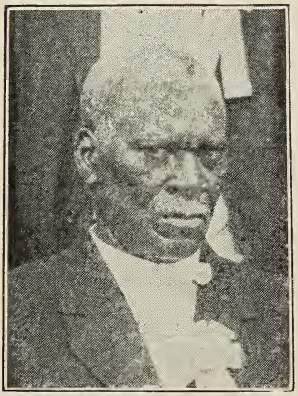
Dr. Parrish married Miss Mary V. Cook, an alumna of State University, and an accomplished teacher. One son has been born to the union.

Dr. Parrish is a magnetic preacher, whose rapid flow of choice language and piercing logic never fail to bring forth an enthusiastic response from his hearers. His intense zeal, tempered with judgment, renders him successful in whatever he undertakes.

## *A. J. STOKES, D.D.*

*Pastor of Seven Thousand Members—Financier—Holy Land Traveler—Treasurer National Baptist Convention—Great Preacher.*

The man who forges ahead, listens neither to the unwise advice of friends nor the unworthy criticisms of foes, is the man that rises to a point of eminence from whence he may view the rich fruit of his tireless labors.



The Reverend A. J. Stokes was born at Orangeburg, South Carolina, on July 25th, 1859, to Joseph and Rosana Stokes. He was converted on May 3rd, 1870. From the common schools of Orangeburg he went to Claflin University and Benedict College, from which he was graduated—classical course—in 1884, Guadalupe College, Texas, and Princeton University, in Indiana, conferred upon him the degree of LL.D.

Dr. Stokes has officiated as pastor in Mt. Pisgah, Black Jack, Winnsboro, Rock Hill, Mt. Olive, Mt. Zion, Ebenezer and Bull Swamp churches, of South Carolina; First Baptist Church, Clarksville, Tennessee; Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Florida. In 1891 he was called to the pastorate of the First Baptist Church, Montgomery, Alabama, where he still resides. He has baptized about 15,000 persons, 7,000 of whom entered the First Baptist Church of Montgomery, Alabama. The present membership of that church is 5,700, the largest in

America. He has performed the marriage ceremony for 3,000 couples.

Dr. Stokes has been editor of the *South Carolina Baptist;* he has also edited the Montgomery *Helping Hand.* He has occupied the position of president of the Montgomery Academy and of moderator of the Spring Hill Association—the latter for twenty-one years. He has also filled successfully the office of president of the Managing Committee of the *Union Review;* and is now treasurer of the National Baptist Convention.

Dr. Stokes is one of the wealthiest preachers in the United States. He owns three plantations, in Montgomery, Crenshaw and Elmore counties, respectively.

In 1885 he married Miss Essie Tucker. Two children, Lue Rosa and Hugo, were born of the union.

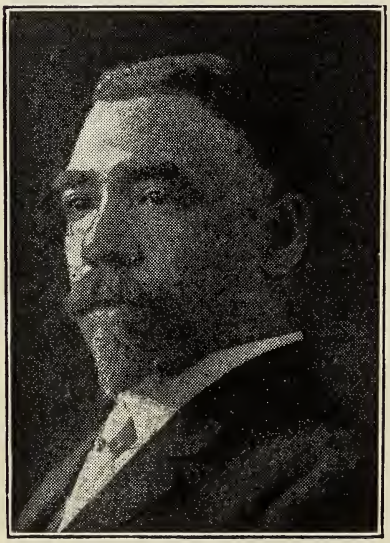
Dr. Stokes is broad-minded and well informed on subjects of national and international interest, having traveled extensively in Europe, Egypt, Palestine and other countries.

Dr. Stokes has achieved wide distinction in the school of life's conflict, which is the surest test of deserving. And while he has been in many skirmishes fraught with danger, he has offered his life in many a hard-fought battle in defense of the race. He is a great leader of a great people in a great cause, and the First Baptist Church of Montgomery—the largest in America—may well boast of one of the bravest and most commanding pastors of modern times.

## *WILLIAM ABRAHAM CREDIT, A.B., A.M., B.O., D.D., LL.D.*

*Scholar — Orator — Pastor First African Baptist Church — Founder of a University—President New England Baptist Convention.*

Reverend William Abraham Credit was born July 14, 1864, at Baltimore, Maryland, to B. R. and Mary L. Credit.



He attended the public schools and then, consecutively, Lincoln University, Newton Theological Institution, and Boston School of Expression. Colleges have honored themselves by conferring upon this distinguished member of the Afro-American race the the degrees of A.M., Ph.D., D.D., and LL.D.

Dr. Credit was converted in Baltimore in 1876, and since that time his life has evidenced the high purpose that came to him with his change of heart and life. His influence has grown wider with each successive year until he now numbers many thousands among those who have received inspiration from his preaching.

It has been given him to hold various positions of trust; to occupy many pulpits of importance. He has been an instructor

in the State University, Louisville, and in the State Normal School, Frankfort, Kentucky. He was the first to introduce the inductive method of teaching Latin, Greek and Hebrew in the State University. While at Frankfort he served as pastor of the Corinthian Baptist Church. From Frankfort Dr. Credit went as pastor to the Berean Baptist Church, Washington, D. C.; and so acceptably did he serve the Berean congregation that it was with difficulty it released him to accept the very large and lucrative pastorate of the First African Baptist Church, Philadelphia, which he still occupies.

His present charge is composed principally of professional people, whose combined wealth is nearly a million dollars, and the edifice in which the people worship is valued at $100,000. It is a model of elegance and beauty, well equipped with all modern appliances for the comfort and pleasure of its worshipers, thereby attesting the fine æsthetic and artistic taste of the people. This is the oldest Negro church in the East, having been organized at the dawn of the nineteenth century. From its organization it has had but seven pastors, each having served well his time and generation. Dr. Credit, the seventh, erected the present edifice in 1909. It is institutional in nature, and the members are wisely taught to inculcate the doctrines of Christianity; but thrift, virtue, education, business and race unity are emphasized.

Feeling the need of an institution that would give the colored youth an opportunity to learn the trades that would enable them to earn an independent support in the field of competition, he founded the Downington Industrial College and became its first president. The institution has grown to large proportions and is one of the best of its kind in the Keystone State.

Because of his experience, great scholarship and executive ability he was elected president of the New England Baptist Convention, which he served faithfully and continuously for four years. He is now president of the Cherry Building and Loan Association, treasurer of the Reliable Mutual Aid Life

Insurance Company, founder of the first Colored Farmers' Alliance of Pennsylvania, and member of the Republican State Central Committee.

Dr. Credit has made the best of the many opportunities to aid his fellow-men, and his immense personal following in State and Nation attests his popularity and the confidence of the people in his leadership.

Dr. Credit is brilliant and versatile; he is a most able man —a forcible speaker, eloquent and earnest, deep in thought, but clear in language. His fame has gone abroad and his name is known and honored wherever the qualities of energy, integrity, love and devotion to the race are recognized. A fine speech may be prepared and delivered without stirring an audience; but Dr. Credit has the faculty of not only writing addresses, but of penetrating, by means of a certain magnetic force, the minds and hearts of the most indifferent listeners and of firing them with a determination to make their lives worth while.

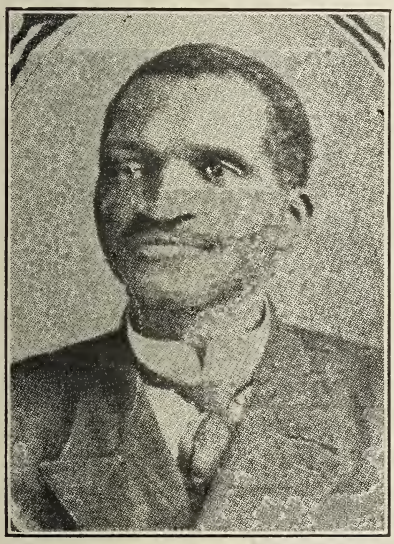
Those who have a tendency to follow industrial pursuits are encouraged by Dr. Credit to attain the highest and most independent plane in their chosen trades; those who have the gift of special aptitude for the professions are given a start along the line of their wishes.

Having been signally honored from time to time by the people of his State; loved and respected by all who know him; looked upon as one of the most eloquent men of modern times, liberal in education, profound in statesmanship, and safe in leadership—Dr. Credit may well feel proud of a record that shines on with increasing brightness as the sphere of his power and influence widens with the passing years.

## *REVEREND CHARLES T. WALKER, LL.D.*

*Farmer—School-Teacher—University Trustee—Pastor—Temperance Lecturer—Chaplain United States Army—Holy Land Traveler—"The Black Spurgeon"—Eloquent Minister.*

The Reverend Charles Thomas Walker, known as "The Black Spurgeon," was born near Hephzibah, Georgia, on February 5, 1858, to Thomas and Hannah Walker, both amiable Christians The father died the day before the birth of Charles, and the mother, who entertained great hopes for her youngest son, did not live to witness—in the body—his noble career. But Dr. Walker has always felt that from her exalted position in the better world she has seen and approved of that which he has done. A near relative of her former master, eulogizing Mrs. Walker, said:



"No marble headstone marks the spot where she was laid away, yet I am sure that the humble mound that covers her sleeping dust covers a heart as honest and faithful, as patient and gentle, as kindly and true, as any that rests beneath the proudest monument that art could fashion or affection buy."

It was but natural that Dr. Walker, coming from a generation of preachers, and bred amid religious surroundings, should choose the ministry as his profession. For seven years he experienced the hardships of slavery; then came freedom, and opportunities to mould his own future.

At fifteen years of age, in June, 1873, Dr. Walker professed a hope in Christ. From the time of his conversion he was an active and zealous Christian. He at once identified himself with church, Sunday-school and prayer-meeting services. The peculiar manner of Dr. Walker's conversion has been noted by his biographer in "The Life of Charles T. Walker," and his fasting for three days and nights in the woods, where he found the Lord after a struggle lasting for seventy-two hours, brings to mind the trials and temptations of the Great Example—Jesus. Having evidence of the divine call to the ministry, Dr. Walker resolved to prepare himself by enlisting the assistance of Dr. Robert, an ex-slaveholder, who became president of the Augusta Institute, now Morehouse College, Atlanta, Georgia. Dr. Walker completed the literary and theological courses at that institution through the generous aid of a Mr. Bierce, of Ohio, and was ordained in May, 1877.

His first pastorate was the Franklin Covenant Baptist Church, near Augusta; his second was at La Grange, where he founded the La Grange Academy. From there he was called to the Central Baptist Church, Augusta, out of which grew the Tabernacle Church, now one of the largest in the State. He is still in charge of the Tabernacle Church.

Dr. Walker was at one time manager of the Augusta *Sentinel,* and in 1893 he was director general of the Negro Exposition. One of his most important services to the race was the founding of the Old Folks' Home.

In 1891 Tabernacle Church sent Dr. Walker to the Holy Land, where he spent two months or more, visiting Alexandria, Cairo, Jerusalem, the Mount of Olives, Gethsemane and points in continental Europe. On this trip Dr. Walker

preached in Exeter Hall and Spurgeon's Tabernacle, London.

He was connected with the organization of the National Baptist Convention, and since that time he has been a national figure. His vigorous defense of the South against criticism by a Northern delegate brought him strongly before the public, and his intelligent, aggressive stand against those who dare to challenge the thrift and progress of the race mark him as a worthy defender of high ideals.

The degree of Doctor of Divinity was received from State University, Louisville, Kentucky.

Dr. Walker wears his honors modestly. There is nothing ostentatious about him; his appearance in a convention is unattended by any air of importance. But when he is aroused the flash of his eyes, the gestures of his hands, the movements of his body, the thunder of his voice and the faultless yet incessant flow of English fairly lift his hearers from their seats and carry them away with him.

He has served as chaplain in the Army of Occupation in Cuba, and he preached while there in 1898. His deportment was favorably commented upon, and his services for his country and brethren across the water were characteristic of the earnestness that makes him an idol and a hero at home.

In 1899 Dr. Walker accepted a call to Mount Olivet Baptist Church, New York city, over the unanimous protest of Tabernacle Church. During his incumbency Mount Olivet Church increased three-fold, and each Sabbath hundreds were turned away, being unable to gain admission to the building. Dr. Walker established the Y. M. C. A. in that city and it has since become one of the largest in the entire country.

In 1901 he was recalled to Augusta, but so anxious were the members of Mount Olivet Church to retain him that it was fully a year before he was able to make a favorable response. Upon his return the church at Augusta broadened the scope of its work, which became of national importance. Dr. Walker, who is still its pastor, has given the Tabernacle prestige throughout the United States.

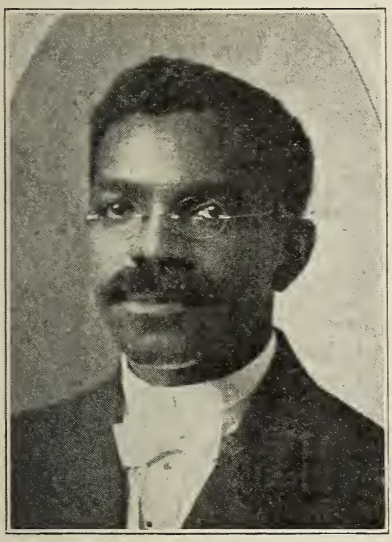
He is without doubt the most eloquent minister in America, if not in the world. No church, hall or auditorium has ever been able to accommodate the thousands who have gathered to hear him from time to time. As a writer he possesses the rare faculty of stirring his readers to the depths of their religious natures—a difficult thing to do in cold type. As a leader he ranks with the foremost, having an army of personal followers. As an evangelist he is demonstrative and magnetic. He has brought thousands into the church, at Atlanta, Kansas City, Chicago and elsewhere.

In 1879 Dr. Walker was married to Miss Violet Franklin, of Hephzibah, Georgia. Four children have been born to the union. Three of them are living at the present time.

Dr. Walker has a history that is brim full of good deeds; he has occupied the center of the stage in the International Sunday-school Convention, in the National Baptist Convention, in the World Baptist Alliance and in the Convention of North America. He is at that age when the young man is no more and the middle-aged starts upon his journey toward the evening of life. And as he nears the sunset glow that gives promise of a bright to-morrow, his name, as one of the world's immortals, will become indelibly impressed upon the hearts of his fellow-men.

## *REVEREND ELISHA ARLINGTON WILSON, Ph.B., D.D.*

*Boy Evangelist—Master of Language—President State Convention—Secretary K. P. Fraternity—Assistant Secretary National Convention.*



The Reverend Elisha Arlington Wilson, passionate orator, journalist, organizer of men and modern evangelist—a typical example of "the doctrine that the character impressed on a man at home follows him abroad," was born at Garland City, Arkansas, October 22, 1876, to Bryant and Catherine Wilson, formerly of Virginia. Like Timothy, he was early taught the Scriptures.

Dr. Wilson was reared in Texarkana, Texas, and educated at Bishop College, Marshall, Texas; Christian University, Canton, Missouri; and Kansas City University, Kansas City, Kansas. He was the second Negro to receive a college degree from the last named institution and the first Negro to receive that of Bachelor of Philosophy. The degree of Master of Ancient Literature was conferred upon him by Christian Uni-

versity, and that of Doctor of Divinity by Eckstein Norton University, Cane Spring, Kentucky.

In July, 1899, he was united in marriage to Miss Leurlean Snadon, a native of Kentucky. Mrs. Wilson is an alumna of Lincoln High School, Kansas City, Missouri, and studied music at Chicago Musical Conservatory. She is still a devotee of music, in which art she has made an unusual success.

Dr. Wilson is at present pastor of the Metropolitan Baptist Church, Kansas City, Kansas; president Kansas Baptist Convention; recording secretary Western Baptist Convention and assistant secretary of the National Baptist Convention.

The Doctor is a thirty-second degree Mason, and recording secretary of the National Grand Lodge of United Brothers and Sisters of Mysterious Tens of U. S. A.

He is the author of "The Burning Message for the Young," "The Heavenly Vision," "Armageddon," "The King's Business," "Higher Ground," and other tracts and pamphlets.

Dr. Wilson's personal property and real estate easily reach $10,000 or more.

Since he was a boy fourteen years of age, he has labored successfully as an evangelist, and he is now one of the field workers with Drs. I. Tolliver, C. T. Walker, E. J. Fisher, H. R. Wilson and Tyler in the World-wide Evangelistic Campaign. Thousands have flocked to his evangelistic meetings from time to time and hundreds have professed to know the Lord through the power of his preaching.

The rapid rise of Dr. Wilson has been phenomenal. For nearly fifteen years he has officiated with the best of results as pastor of one of the most intellectual congregations in his State, and for nine years he has been the popular leader of 25,000 Baptists of Kansas.

Under his administration as pastor a debt of $4,500 has been canceled, and a foundation for a "Greater Metropolitan" on the institutional plan has been built, and he has acquired a membership that stands for all that is highest from a moral, intellectual and spiritual standpoint.

The Sunday forum, the annual Chautauquas and the Religious Congress which meet with the Metropolitan Church owe their origin to Dr. Wilson. He is a favorite with the young people and is greatly respected in the denomination. As a speaker he is persuasive, logical and fervid, and as a word-painter few men can excel him. A bright future awaits this eminent and much-loved divine, whose eloquence weaves in one golden web of divine oratory similes and symbols in setting forh the divine glory of Christ's transcendent excellence and mission.

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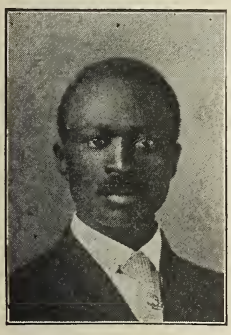
## *L. AMASA KNOX, A.B., LL.B., LL.M.*

### *Blacksmith—Prominent Lawyer—Civic Worker.*

L. Amasa Knox, of Kansas City, Mo., was born in Virginia in 1869. At an early age he came under the domination of religious thought and feeling, and joined the First Baptist Church of Sussex, Virginia, when he was eleven years old.



Like many other young men who were inspired by the educational atmosphere of a State which boasts of the possession of one of the finest universities in America, he became imbued with a zeal for education and a thirst for higher things. Embracing the opportunities which the State afforded, he completed the college preparatory course at the Virginia Normal and Collegiate Institute in 1890, and in 1894 graduated from the same institution with the degree of A.B.

He had already decided on his professional career and had equipped himself for the study of law. In 1897 he was graduated from the Law Department of Howard University, with the degree of LL.B. and in the following year the degree of LL.M. was conferred upon him. He is the only colored man in Missouri—the State of his adoption—holding the latter degree.

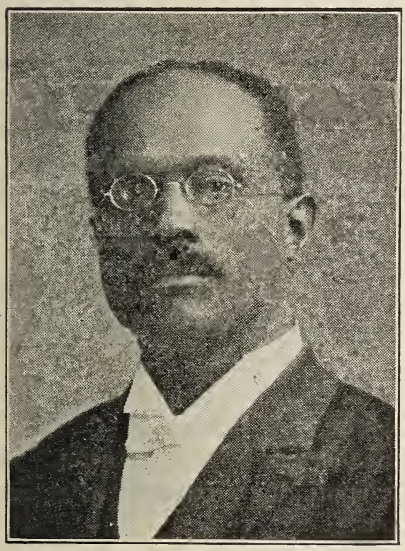
Mr. Knox is a conservative, dignified Christian gentleman—quiet, thoughtful, and unostentatious. He is admittedly one of the ablest attorneys at the Kansas City bar, and he commands respect before the courts. He believes in attending strictly to business. He is absolutely frank and honest with his clients, and by that means has built up a solid, substantial and growing practice. Mr. Knox is a credit to the race and an honor to his profession and denomination.

Mr. Knox started life as a blacksmith, thereby earning money to support himself while in school. He is not only learned in his profession, but he is also a most effective public speaker and a civic worker who is using all his influence in favor of much-needed reforms.

Mr. Knox is married and much of his success is due to the timely assistance of his wife, Mrs. Clara T. Knox.

## *REVEREND DANIEL A. SCOTT, Th.B., D.D.*
*Austin, Texas.*

*Sunday-School Missionary of the American Baptist Publication Society—Pastor—Leader—Orator—Hard Student.*



The great State of Texas has never produced a more favored son than the subject of this sketch. With a keen brain, a high ambition, he carved his own way through hardships and privations to a place of honor among the truly great men.

The Reverend Daniel A. Scott was born in Travis County, near Austin, Texas, on December 5, 1863. He was educated in the public schools of Austin and in Bishop College, Marshall, Texas, where he distinguished himself as a hard student and a deep thinker.

Dr. Scott entered the ministry with the conviction that the greatest progress could be made by working for the advancement of the young people of the race. He realized that through them would the future be determined; that they must be trained to fill useful positions in the world; that they must be educated both in relation to the knowledge to be obtained from books and in the trades

and the professions. With the high purpose of devoting himself to the good of his fellow-men—of consecrating himself to the cause of the development of all that is best in the Negro—Dr. Scott connected himself with every movement looking to the uplift of the people. For more than twenty years he has been a prominent figure in the Lone Star State. He has filled successful pastorates at Austin and at Marshall, where he built large church edifices and strengthened the memberships. When he decided to take up general denominational work, he was invited to return to the pastorate, by a unanimous vote of both congregations which he had served, but he felt that the Lord had other things for him to do.

Dr. Scott has occupied high positions at various times. He was general secretary of the Baptist M. and E. Convention; president of Houston College for seven years; and general superintendent of the Sunday-school and Bible work of the State Convention and of the American Baptist Publication Society, jointly. His influence over young persons enables Dr. Scott to perform most acceptable services for the denomination and for Christianity in general. He was presiding officer of the State Sunday-school Convention for twelve years.

Dr. Scott was a brilliant staff correspondent of the *Western Star*, and he has been editor of the *Texas Headlight* and of *Truth*.

As a conductor of Bible institutes he has made a record which younger men might well imitate.

Dr. Scott owns some valuable real estate in Austin. He enjoys also the happy association of a devoted wife, one daughter and five splendid sons.

He is regarded as one of the most eloquent and persuasive Baptist preachers of the country. His pulpit manner is graceful; his arguments are logical and convincing; his style is clear and he possesses a ready command of good English. He is highly spiritual and his delivery is forceful.

Not the least among the attainments of Dr. Scott is a

well-trained, melodious voice. He has been called a "sweet singer in Israel."

All the talents of this eminent divine have been used unstintingly for the glory of God and for the betterment of humanity.

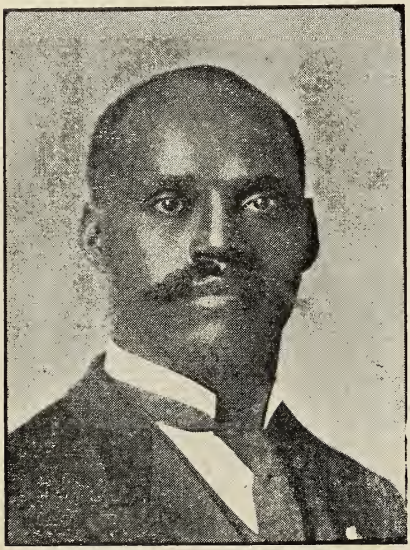
Dr. Scott undoubtedly has many years before him, being in the prime of life, and if the future is to be judged by the past, he will be heard from again and he will continue to set an example worthy of emulation by the young people of the denomination and of the race—the leaders to come.

Dr. Scott's name is a synonym for earnestness, capability, faithfulness and unselfishness.

## *E. M. GRIGGS, D.D.*

*Minister—Financier—Race Advocate—Indefatigable Worker.*

Some men are satisfied to give only the best they have in whatever capacity they serve for the assistance of their comrades and fellows, and our sketch is a man of this kind.



The Reverend E. M. Griggs was born March 5th, 1865, in Red River County, near Clarksville, Texas. His father died when the boy was only six weeks old, hence he was brought up by a widowed mother. He received his education at Bishop College, graduating with the degree of B.Th. For a number of years he served as pastor of the West Union Baptist Church, Palestine, Texas, succeeding Elder R. H. Boyd, D.D., LL.D., of Nashville, Tennessee. He was moderator of the Zion Hill Baptist Association, and was the first moderator in Texas to locate an association on a camp-ground of sixty acres of land, where meetings are held annually.

Mr. Griggs has been for several years district secretary of the National Baptist Convention of America, which position he now holds. He is also president of the Farmers' and

Citizens' Savings Bank of Palestine, Texas, the largest Afro-American bank in the State. It has a paid-up capital of $45,000, and its resources are more than $81,000

Mr. Griggs is State organizer of the State Negro Business League of Texas; a member of the Board of Directors of the Baptist Missionary and Educational Convention of Texas; a member of the B. Y. P. U. Board of the National Baptist Convention.

He believes that religion and business should go together, and through his efforts much encouragement has been given to Afro-Americans who desire to engage in enterprises of a higher and more profitable nature than that in which the colored man usually embarks.

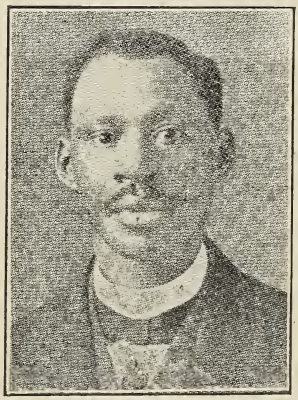
Mr. Griggs is a race advocate of the best type. He sees the possibilities of the future for the people and is using all his energies for their advancement.

Among his elements of strength is his force of character, which shines with the lustre of a golden sun in a cloudless sky. His word alone is as good as a certified check and his life is an open book. He is a strong believer in an educated ministry, but above it a converted heart and a life of purity. Such men as Griggs are ever in demand to hurl with the sword of truth the fiery darts of sin from the hearts of men.

## *REVEREND WILLIAM BECKHAM, D.D.*

*Self-Made Man—Great Minister—Lecturer—Field Secretary National Baptist Publishing Board—One of the Best Financiers of the Race.*

The Reverend William Beckham was born in Pike County, Georgia, in 1866, to James and Nancy Beckham. As the parents were very poor, William had few educational advantages except those which he secured through his own efforts. But he had the will, and made the best possible use of the facilities afforded by the public schools in his native State. Soon after he entered his "teens" his parents migrated to Texas, where the son continued his studies in the town schools at Bonham. He evinced a great thirst for knowledge, always leading in his classes and taking first rank as a debater and public speaker.



Dr. Beckham was converted in 1880 and united with the Baptist Church. In November, 1891, he was called to the ministry, and his ordination took place in the same year.

He is a deep student of theology and a veritable storehouse of information upon leading topics of the day. His manner of speaking and his choice of words are peculiarly his own, and he can hold an audience spell-bound for hours, advancing from one point to another with increasing power.

In recognition of his brilliant services, Guadalupe College,

Texas, and Friendship College, South Carolina, conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Divinity.

After filling the pastorate at Abilene, Texas, for some time, Dr. Beckham was elected general superintendent of Baptist Sunday-school Missions, in which position he acquitted himself most creditably. He is now field secretary of the National Baptist Publishing Board, located at Nashville, Tennessee.

Dr. Beckham is one of the foremost preachers of the Afro-American race. As a lecturer he is witty, pointed and exceedingly entertaining; as a money-raiser in the mission field he is a signal success. He is respected and loved by his brethren. He is plain in speech, and at times may be considered almost rough in his methods of expression, but he is so only to drive his arguments home the more forcibly.

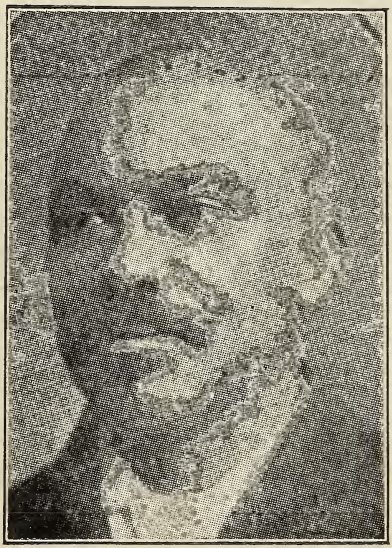
Dr. Beckham has traveled extensively in Europe. He was one of the delegates to the World Missionary Conference at Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1910.

In view of the fact that he is yet comparatively young, his future is before him, and God will unquestionably use him to accomplish a great work in the interests of the race and denomination. And judging by the past, that work will be undertaken with cheerfulness and courage, and pursued to completion with strength and determination.

## *PRESIDENT JOSEPH ALBERT BOOKER, A.B., A.M., D.D.*

*Professor of Mathematics and Languages—Critic—College President—Editor—Great Disciplinarian.*

The Reverend Joseph Albert Booker was born at Portland, Arkansas, on December 26, 1859, to Albert and Mary Booker. He was a promising child, almost from the cradle, and long before he reached his tenth year he was the neighborhood critic and mathematician. He accepted no theories without good reason, and was often so inquisitive that he was nicknamed "the question-box." Though poor, his parents decided that their gifted son should have the benefit of the best possible education. Having prepared himself in the public schools of his native village, he was sent to Roger Williams University, Nashville, Tennessee.



He went straight from the plantation to the University—he had previously united with the Baptist Church at Portland, Arkansas—and attracted the attention of both professors and students because of his brilliant mind. While in college he excelled in mathematics and Latin. He was exceedingly fond

of Cicero's Orations, which, no doubt, had something to do with his developing into a great orator.

After taking the degree of Bachelor of Arts, he returned to Arkansas as a teacher in the public schools, which position he retained for ten years. He won the confidence of pupils and patrons, and it was with reluctance that they released him, in order that he might accept the office of State missionary.

But God had a higher position for the young educator, and the Arkansas Baptists were determined that he should fill that place. He was therefore unanimously elected to the presidency of the Arkansas Baptist College, and he has amply demonstrated the wisdom of their choice. He has been continuously elected annually for the past twenty-five years.

Dr. Booker has taken the school out of the second-class list and placed it among the finest colleges of the country. Its students may be found in every walk of life. They are in the pulpit; at the bar, pleading the cause of the oppressed among their fellow-creatures; at the teacher's desk; or at the bedside of the sick, ministering with care and judgment to those who are the victims of disease.

The Arkansas College has grown to enormous proportions and matriculates annually more than six hundred students. Her buildings are modern, her appliances are of the most improved kind, and her instructors number twenty-four. The property is valued at $80,000.

In 1887 Dr. Booker married Miss Mary J. Caver, and eight bright, promising children are the result of the union. One—Mattie Alberta—is a teacher of music.

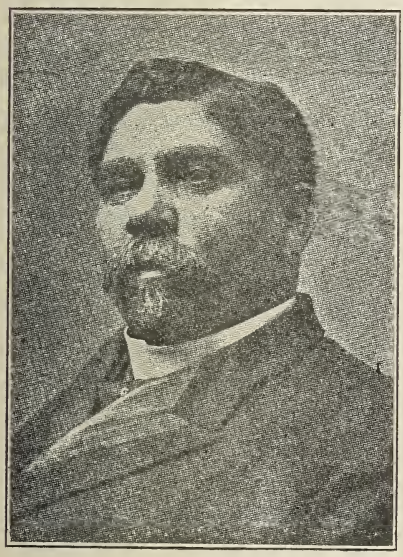
In recognition of his rare attainments, the degree of A.M. was conferred upon Mr. Booker by his Alma Mater. He has also received the degree of Doctor of Divinity from two or more colleges.

Dr. Booker is a man of honor, an apostle of temperance and of industrial reform, as well as an advocate of higher education for the Negro. He is a fine editorial writer and an exceptionally good critic.

As an orator he has attained national fame. It has been said of him that he was neither born great nor was greatness thrust upon him, nevertheless he has become one of the greatest men of the Afro-American race; and that through his own efforts—not by vain self-seeking, but by sincere endeavor to lift his fellow-men upon a more independent plane. He is like other famous leaders—so absorbed in service to others that he has grown, gradually but surely, into a prominent figure in the race and the denomination. His devotion to the interests of the institution over which he presides—his self-forgetfulness—cannot but continue to redound to his credit. As a pedagogue of the first rank he has gently woven into the lives of those about him the ideals of true greatness that have sent forth into the world such leaders as J. P. Robinson and R. M. Caver, who occupy a commanding position in the eye of the public.

## *ALEXANDER S. JACKSON, D.D.*

*Receiver of Public Funds—University Regent—Traveler in Egypt—Strong Pastor—Ideal Christian.*



Unlike the majority of young men, our sketch was blessed with an indulgent father, who offered every encouragement to the unfolding of his grasping intellect, and, unlike many young men, he made good use of his opportunities.

Alexander S. Jackson, son of the Reverend Andrew and Charlotte Jackson, was born on the 4th day of May, 1858. The father was a pioneer pastor; hence the boy was surrounded with religious influences from the time of his birth. He united with the Baptist Church at an early age, and as a foundation for his future ministerial duties he entered Atlanta University. He was among the first to matriculate in that institution and Clark Theological Seminary, both established by Northern philanthropists.

After receiving a substantial education, Dr. Jackson became a teacher in the public schools of Georgia and Mississippi. He taught successfully for many years, during the

last seven of which he was principal of the State School for Negroes at Jackson.

But God intended that his talents should be exerted in a higher field of usefulness and he was ordained and called to the pastorate of the Tulane Avenue Baptist Church, New Orleans. For eighteen years he labored in that church, developing it into the strongest colored church in the city.

He was one of the prime movers in the reorganization of the Louisiana Baptist State Convention and of the National Baptist Convention, and was for two years president of the latter.

While at New Orleans Dr. Jackson was made regent of Leland University and chairman of the board.

In 1892, so widely known had he become as a leader of thought and a theologian, he was elected a member of the Advisory Committtee of the World Parliament of Religions held in connection with the Columbian Exposition at Chicago, Illinois. The manner in which he discharged the duties of the position reflected great credit upon him and did much to make his name a household word.

In 1899 New Hope Baptist Church, Dallas, Texas, realizing that Dr. Jackson was the man of the hour, invited him to her pulpit, where such distinguished divines as A. R. Griggs and E. W. Isaac had officiated. He accepted the call, much against the wishes of both the white and black citizens of New Orleans. He still serves the New Hope Church, which has become one of the most important missionary churches in the United States. During his administration a $40,000 house of worship has been erected, and that without incurring a mortgage.

Dr. Jackson has probably addressed a larger number of national gatherings of whites than any other Negro Baptist minister. Three times he appeared before the Northern Baptist Convention by invitation, and he has also been the honored speaker at the Southern Baptist Convention, held in Kansas City, Missouri.

Although Dr. Jackson is not in any sense a politician, he was appointed receiver of public moneys at New Orleans during President Harrison's administration, and his appointment was promptly confirmed by the Senate without dissension.

Dr. Jackson was a delegate to the World Missionary Conference, Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1910, and while abroad he visited the prominent cities of Europe and toured Egypt and Palestine. He is a close student of the Bible, and both his sermons and his lectures are intensely interesting.

The Doctor has been married twice. His first wife, Miss Laura Augusta Mason, died years ago. Three children of this union still survive. His present companion, Alice Morse Jackson, was formerly a teacher of New Orleans. Two fine boys have blessed their marriage.

Dr. Jackson received the degree of Doctor of Divinity from the famous State University, Louisville, Kentucky. He is a strong temperance advocate and an untiring worker for all that stands for Christian manhood. He is fully abreast of the times, and no man is doing more to bring about harmony between the races than he. Dr. Jackson grows bigger in the hearts of his brethren as the years go by.

## *G. C. F. CURRY, B.Th.*

*Forceful Speaker—Promising Young Divine—Moderator of Large Association—President Stockholders' Board of Guadalupe College.*

The Reverend G. C. F. Curry, the energetic and highly esteemed moderator of Guadalupe Association, was born December 1, 1872, in Guadalupe County, near Seguin, Texas. He was converted and baptized by Dr. W. B. Ball, in August, 1885, and was married to Miss Tillie Phillips, a promising young teacher, of Seguin, in 1893.

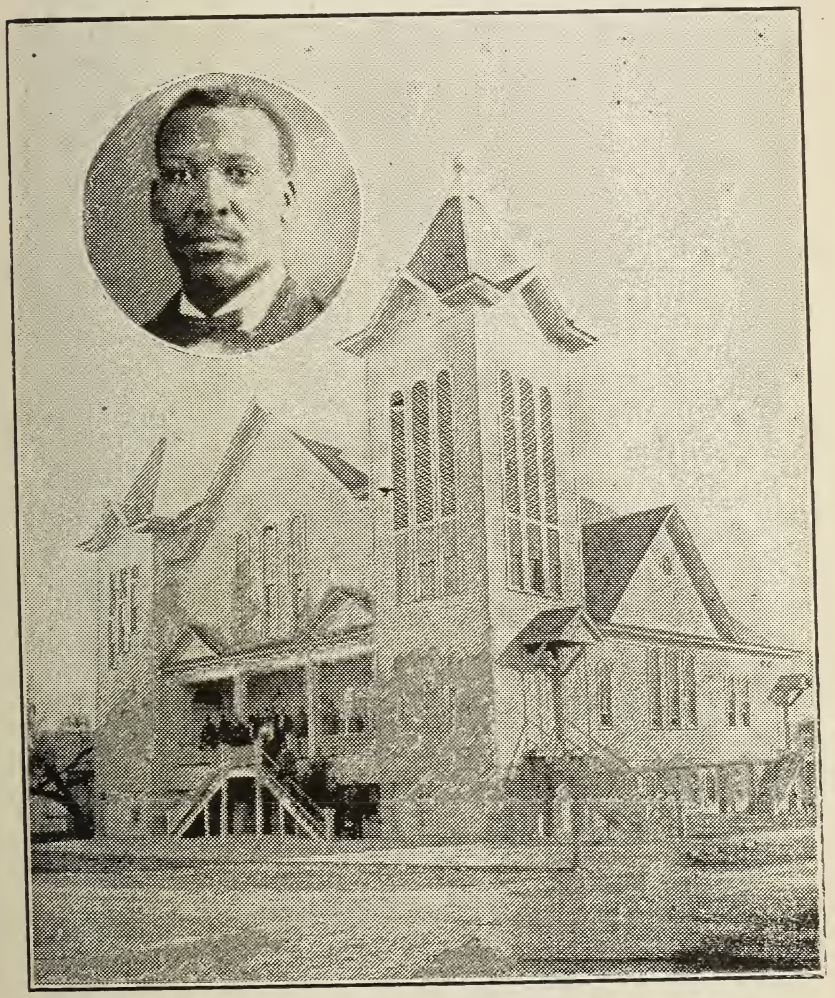
Mr. Curry graduated from the Theological Department of Guadalupe College in 1904. He began active ministerial work immediately, and has served as pastor in the following churches: Zion Hill, Seguin; Riddleville; Sweet Canaan, Kingsbury; New Providence, Prairie Lea; First Baptist, Mason; Lone Oak, Lockhart; St. Mary's, Austin; Terrisville, Gonzales. He is now connected in a ministerial capacity with Mount Zion First Baptist Church of San Antonio, Texas.

Dr. Curry is president of the Stockholders' Board of Guadalupe College, and he is also a member of the Educational Board of the General Convention. For a number of years he was treasurer of the District Sunday-school Convention and treasurer of the Association.

As a public speaker, Dr. Curry is magnetic. He is forceful, clear and logical. As a religious guide he is wise and earnest. He has already won the distinction of being a successful evangelist, having brought many souls to Christ. He is regarded in the denomination as one of the most promising young divines in the Southwest, and there is no doubt that he will attain still greater heights than those which he has thus far reached.

There is no nobler life than that which is consecrated to the work of bringing men and women into a better life, and

Dr. Curry has devoted his entire talents to the service of God. teaching those who come under his influence how to become good Christians—good citizens, good fathers and mothers.



Mount Zion First Baptist Church, San Antonio, Texas.
Rev. G. C. F. Curry B.Th., Pastor.

Second Baptist Church, San Antonio, Texas.
Rev. I. H. Kelly, Pastor.
(Valuation, $100,000.)

## *REVEREND I. H. KELLY, B.Th., D.D.*

*Builder of $100,000 Edifice—President B. Y. P. U. State Convention—Model Pastor—Gifted Citizen.*

The Reverend I. H. Kelly is the pastor of the Second Baptist Church at San Antonio, Texas, one of the most imposing in the country, built at an expense of $100,000; a cut of which is presented elsewhere. Rev. Kelly is a model pastor and has a congregation which works in harmony with his ideas and appreciates all that he does for the good of the people.

The young divine is a graduate of Guadalupe College, finishing in the Theological Department at Seguin, Texas, in 1899. He holds many honorable positions in the Baptist denomination, being ex-moderator of the Guadalupe Association; president of the State B. Y. P. U. General Convention of Texas; member of the Board of Trustees of Guadalupe College, and member of the Old Ministers' Relief Board of the General Baptist Convention of Texas.

Mr. Kelly is esteemed one of the most promising among

the ministers of the country. He is enthusiastic and has a faculty of transmitting his enthusiasm to those with whom he comes in contact. He has already acquired a wide influence for good.

The problems that confront the Afro-American race in regard to its future welfare are deeply felt by Mr. Kelly, and he will continue to labor, as he has in the past, for the solution of those problems in an intelligent manner.

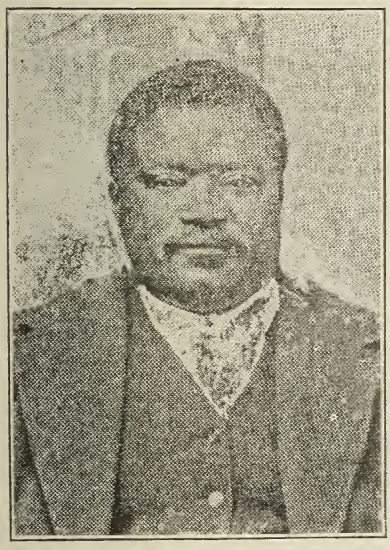
He is earnest, energetic and strong in faith, believing that great things can be done for the uplift of humanity. His interest in the members of the church extends to plans for material benefit, as well as for moral and religious development. He understands that body, soul and mind must advance together—in unison, and his labors cannot but be blessed with a large measure of success. No man in the State is more highly respected and no man of his years has accomplished more in the field of moral, spiritual and business uplift than Brother Kelly, whose life is an incentive to every ambitious son of Ham.

## *REVEREND MOSES JOHNSON.*

*Example of High Moral Character—Devoted Minister—Faithful Christian—Kind Father and Husband.*

(Published by request of the Missionary Baptist General Convention of Texas.)

The Reverend Moses Johnson was a pioneer Baptist minister, full of good works. August 16, 1847, was the day of his birth, and he died May 18, 1898. He was the pastor of Mount Rose Baptist Church, Brenham, Texas, for twenty-two years. Mr. Johnson was ordained by Dr. Crane (white) and Dr. Burlson (white), of Baylor University.



He was the father of fifteen children, fourteen of whom, and a widow, still survive him.

During Mr. Johnson's pastorate at Brenham he received into the church and baptized more than 1,500 members. Under his leadership the numerical strength of the church was increased to 1,200.

Mr. Johnson was a friend to education and a man of strong morals. Although his opportunities were limited, he had a thorough understanding of the doctrines of the Baptist Church. His learning came from the old white minister at

Independence, Texas, who gave to him lectures on history and Church doctrines. Mr. Johnson's memory never failed him. He was loved and revered by white and colored people alike. At the funeral the pall-bearers were white men, who shed tears as freely as did the family and intimate friends. One of the pall-bearers stated that he himself did not feel worthy to kiss Uncle Moses' feet.

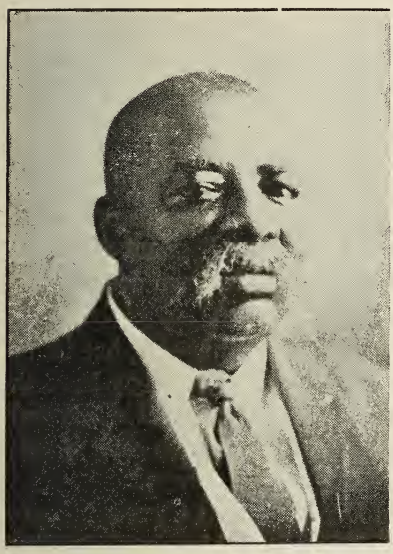
His life was an example of earnest, faithful work—of kindness and patience. He was a devoted husband and father, a sincere Christian who labored unceasingly in the Lord's vineyard, saving many souls.

Mr. Johnson still lives in the hearts of his fellow-citizens, both the white and colored. And because of his good deeds his influence will continue to be felt through those who have been inspired by him to enter upon the Christian life. "Peace be to his ashes."

## *REVEREND F. L. LIGHTS, D.D.*

*Minister—Banker—Leader of Men—Model Pastor—President Foreign Mission Convention.*

F. L. Lights is in the fore rank of Baptist preachers. Born in the State of Louisiana, on July 4th, 1859, he baffled every obstacle to improvement. At the age of twelve years he was located at Bryan, Texas, where he attended the city schools. At a later period he entered Hearne Academy—her first student. He was a hard worker, careful and exact, and did not hesitate to apply himself closely to the studies of the course in order to acquire an education. He was never satisfied with a half-learned lesson, but took pains to fix the points to be mastered firmly in his mind. And to this quality is due, in a large degree, his success in life.



He was converted at an early age, and having been called to the mnistry, he kept that in view throughout his school career.

As a pastor Dr. Lights has won the encomiums of all who know what he has achieved. He has erected several large

church edifices, chief among them Antioch Church, at Houston, Texas. The building is valued at $85,000.

As president of the Orgen Banking Copmany Dr. Lights has demonstrated his financial strength.

As president of the Foreign Mission Convention he has shown what may be accomplished through energy and perseverance.

Dr. Lights has traveled extensively abroad, and has been enabled thereby to study the condition of other peoples. He has plans for the uplift of the Afro-American race, and is turning all of his talents to the realization of those plans. His eloquence as an orator has attracted wide-spread attention; his earnestness and integrity have aided him to reach thousands whose hearts might not otherwise have been touched. With the assistance of his faithful wife, Dr. Lights has brought about many needed reforms. Only a few months ago Mrs. Lights was summoned to her reward.

It has been said that Louisiana never gave birth to a nobler member of the race than F. L. Lights. He has often been referred to as "the model pastor of Texas." And these sayings are evidences of his standing among his own congregation and the denomination at large.

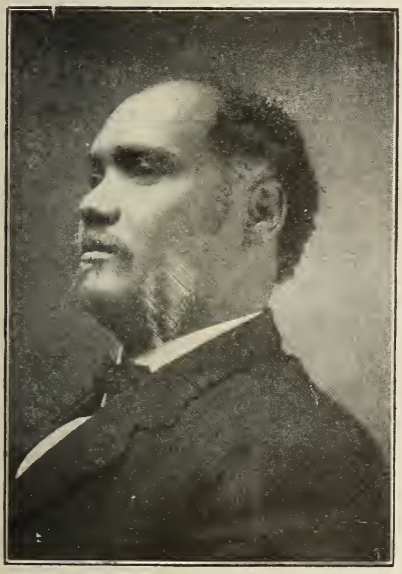
"The best in any calling is not its emoluments, but its opportunities to lay down life for others." This has been the motto of our brother, who feels that "the world needs only those who are willing to subordinate ambition to service, self-seeking to patriotism."

There is no doubt but that Dr. Lights has a great future—one of usefulness and influence beyond anything in his brilliant past.

## *RICHARD HENRY BOYD, LL.D.*

*Born in Slavery—Educated in the School of Adversity—Author—Founder of Baptist Publishing House—President of Penny Savings Bank—The Man of Action.*

The Reverend Richard Henry Boyd, of Nashville, Tennessee, is one of the most interesting personalities on the American continent, if not in the world. He was born in Knox County, Mississippi, 1846. He was denied every opportunity to acquire an education and was regarded as little more than a beast of burden, nevertheless he emerged from a childhood of slavery into a manhood of independence; out of ignorance to the noble sphere of intellectual ambition and achievement. He was twenty years old before he was allowed to open a book. Freedom gave Mr. Boyd the opportunity he desired; for it removed this cruel restrction, and he set immediately to work, learning to read and write in a very short time, and this, too, without the aid of a teacher. Mr. Boyd worked at manual labor each day, while he studied each night. This method was kept up until, at the age of



forty, he decided to enter Bishop College, Marshall, Texas, to prepare himself for the ministry, to which he felt divinely called. He spent only six months at Bishop, when poverty drove him away. But Boyd's soul was afire; his mind assimilated the contents of the best books readily. "Self-improvement" became his motto, and it has made him one of the strong men of the times.

Leaving Bishop College, Mr. Boyd accepted a large pastorate in the State, and while so occupied made it one of the most useful to every phase of denominational work.

Mr. Boyd first came into prominence as a national character when the National Baptist Convention convened in Kansas City, Missouri, in the fall of 1898. He conceived the idea of having the National Baptist Convention found a publishing house, not only to furnish literature to the several thousand Sunday-schools of the connection, but to give employment to hundreds of worthy young men and women in the various departments of the institution as well as to illustrate the capabilities of the Negro. The resolution passed amidst a storm of excitement, with Boyd occupying the center of the stage. Mr. Boyd went to Nashville, surrounded himself with such men as C. H. Clark and J. P. Robinson, and began actively to plan for the largest Negro publishing concern in the world. When the first literature came out, it was called "Negro Backs"; so called because the plates used in making up the forms were furnished by the Southern Baptist Convention Publishing House. But Boyd was not to be discouraged. While others laughed his efforts to scorn, he worked the harder, and God has rewarded his efforts with a plant now valued at $400,000, which employs more than 150 persons. As corresponding secretary of the National Baptist Publishing Board, Mr. Boyd has rendered greater service to the denomination than any other. He has given prestige to the Board at home and abroad, and has been the means of bringing about co-operation in missionary work between the Southern and the National Baptist Conventions. Through

him several business enterprises, aside from the denominational work in which he is engaged, have been formed. Among them is the Nashville One Cent Savings Bank, of which he is president, and through whose efforts it has become one of the strongest in Nashville.

Mr. Boyd is vice-president of the Negro National Business League and president of a local league. He is a high Mason and connected with the fraternal order of United Brothers of Friendship and the Immaculates. Doctor Boyd is author of several books and pamphlets dealing with Sunday-school work and methods. Among them may be mentioned: The Teacher's Class Book (1897), Sunday-school Record Book (1897), National Baptist Easy Lesson Primer (1898), "The Bible As My Mother Taught It to Me" (1898), Baptist Catechism and Doctrine (1899), The National Baptist Pastor's Guide (1900), Baptist Statistics and Sunday-school Text-book (1902), "What Baptists Believe and Practice" (1902), National Baptist Hymnal (1903), National Baptist Commentary (1904), and The National Baptist Church Record, published in 1906. In recognition of his ability and piety, his work for the Master and the race, Guadalupe College, Seguin, Texas, conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Divinity, and Agricultural College, Huntsville, Alabama, befittingly gave him the degree of Doctor of Laws.

Doctor Boyd is simplicity personified, being void of all ostentatiousness, and makes no effort at oratory. He is slow of speech and takes great pains to weigh every word with emphasis on the cardinal points of his address. He is a man of action and is careful to never disclose his plans until he is ready to put them into execution. He is a willing listener to every one giving advice, but he is one man who never tells what he is likely to do next.

Doctor Boyd is a friend to young men and has assisted many, both financially and otherwise, in their struggles for an education.

Mr. Boyd has traveled in various parts of the United

States, the insular possessions and upon continental Europe, visiting London, England, in 1905, as delegate to the World Baptist Alliance, and while abroad visited many points in France, Germany, Italy and Switzerland.

Mrs. Boyd has been a constant companion and source of comfort to Dr. Boyd in all his undertakings. Their son, Henry Allen, now assistant manager of the publishing house and prime mover in the Young People's Congress, is a young man of sober habits, thrift and resourcefulness, capable of doing great good for the people at large.

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## *M. P. HALL, A.M., D.D.*

*College President—Financier—Leader.*

The Reverend M. P. Hall has richly rewarded his parents and his friends for the encouragement given him during his school days. With a liberal vision of duty and a well-proportioned body, mind and soul, he has been able to gather about him and foster a number of enterprises looking to racial advancement. He was born in Chester County, South Carolina, in May, 1859. His parents were the Reverend Thomas and Mrs. Eliza Hall. At an early age he was sent to the common schools. Subsequently he received instruction at Chester, and still later at Benedict

College, Columbia, South Carolina. He graduated from both schools. Since that time he has taken a post-graduate course and has been honored with a degree by Benedict College. Guadalupe College and Morris Brown College conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Divinity.

At present Dr. Hall is president of Friendship College, founded in 1891, at Rockhill, South Carolina. He has occupied that position from the time of its inception, twenty-one years ago. The school is one of the best in the State of South Carolina. Its diplomas are recognized in the granting of first-grade certificates and hundreds of teachers have gone out to carry education among the people.

The dissemination of knowledge has been going on at a rapid rate since the establishment of institutions of learning for the Negroes. Wonderful advancement has been made, and Friendship Normal and Industrial College is not the least among the schools that are conducting the work. Whatever it has accomplished, much credit is due to Dr. Hall, who has devoted his life to its prosperity.

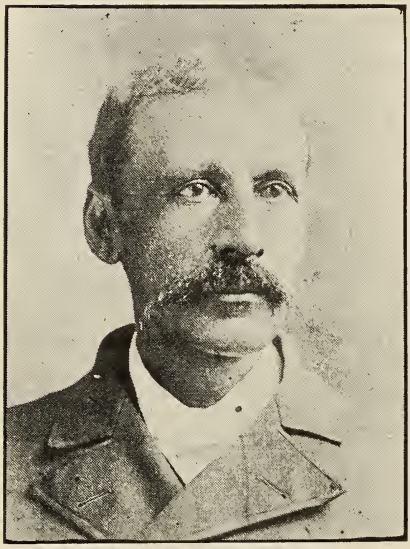
Whenever a noble institution is built up we may know that there is a giant intellect behind it. Some one has applied all his energies to making it a factor in the educational or industrial world. Someone is employing all of his talents and time that the race may be benefited. Friendship has been fortunate indeed to have had the services of Dr. Hall from the period of its origin. Aided by faithful assistants, he has brought the college into the foreground of the seats of learning in the South.

Dr. Hall's excellent judgment, his kindness of heart, his happy faculty of bringing out that which is best in each person with whom he comes in contact, have constituted him a most remarkable man, beloved by his pupils, and respected by all who know him.

## *CHARLES L. ROBERTS, D.D.*

*Safe Leader—Strong Pastor—Business Man.*

The high esteem in which our sketch is held is shown by his long service as pastor in the city of his birth. Eloquence alone is not responsible for his hold upon a grateful and well-informed people. It is the righteous life charged with intelligence and surcharged with business traits that makes our brother grow larger in the hearts of the people each day.



The Reverend Chas. L. Roberts was born August 26th, 1851, at Cheneyville, Louisiana. At fourteen years of age he accepted Christ, and in 1868 he was licensed to preach the gospel. Two years later he married his present faithful wife. His ordination took place at Leland University, New Orleans, Louisiana, in 1875.

Dr. Roberts is pastor of three of the leading churches in the State, with a membership of 1038, and property valued at $13,461.85. He was also president of the Eighth District Association for ten years.

The Reverend Mr. Roberts is a business man. He is the

organizer of the Relief and Burial Association, a flourishing fraternal order of Cheneyville, that has several thousand dollars on deposit for the relief of the distressed.

The Cheneyville Academy is a monument to his energy and executive ability. It has performed a noble work, sending out young persons well prepared to take an active part in the world. The influence of an institution of learning such as the Cheneyville Academy can hardly be over-estimated. In this age standards have been raised and thorough training is required for the masses. Dr. Roberts has realized this and he has bent all of his energies to doing his share toward the dissemination of knowledge. He is distinguished as an earnest, sincere and capable minister, the result of whose labors will continue to live long after he has passed into the Great Beyond.

## *MRS. M. A. B. SMITH.*

*Prominent Missionary Worker—Corresponding Secretary Woman's Convention—Editress.*

Mrs. M. A. B. Smith, of Austin, Texas, is one of the representative women of the Afro-American race. She has given her best energies to the uplift of the people, laboring unceasingly along both religious and educational lines.

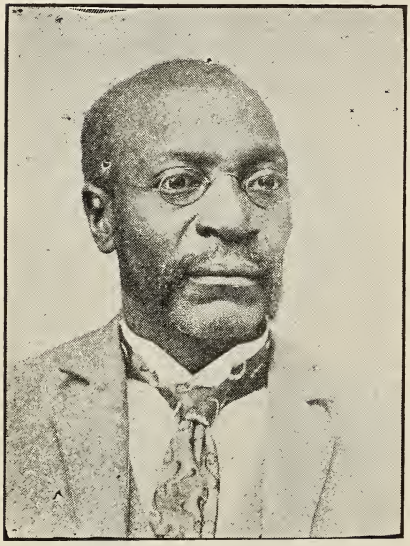
Mrs. Smith is corresponding secretary of the Woman's Auxiliary, General Baptist State Convention of Texas. The present status of the work is due to her efforts. The Missionary Training School of Guadalupe is directly under her fostering care. The salary of the teacher is paid through the influence of Mrs. Smith among the sisters of the State. She edits the literature of the societies, and has arranged matters so that supplies are regularly distributed and the societies are becoming more and more intelligent with reference to the management of missionary work by the Church.

Woman's work presents a great field for development, particularly in relation to missions. Mrs. Smith has recognized the need and has come forward nobly, patiently devoting herself to the cause, and accomplishing remarkably good results. There is no doubt but that the future will show still greater achievements, and that a vast amount of good will be performed both directly and indirectly through the exertions of Mrs. Smith and those who have become interested through her.

She is endowed with ability, judgment and courage, the three important requisites to success. The State Convention is fortunate in securing her services and the National Woman's Convention of Baptists, with which she is conspicuously identified, recognizes her loyalty and generous support to that organization.

## *REVEREND HARDIN SMITH.*

*Pioneer Preacher—Excellent Organizer.*



The Reverend Hardin Smith was born at Blue Springs, Missouri, in the year 1848. His parents died while he was very young, and he became the foster-child of Charles and Elizabeth Johnson, of Independence, Missouri. During the latter part of the Civil War he became separated from them. He was converted in 1867, being baptized into the Second Baptist Church of Independence, Missouri. In 1868 he was licensed to preach. His first pastorate was at Lexington, Missouri, and since that time he has served with much success in Missouri, Kansas and Illinois. He has organized the following churches: First Baptist, Salt Pond; Second Baptist, Higginsville; First Baptist, Olathe; Second Baptist, Rock Springs; Second Baptist, Lathrop. Rev. Mr. Smith pastored the Boonville and Chillicothe, Missouri, Baptist churches very acceptably for many years. Under his management the churches flourished and the standard of morality was raised. He has officiated as moderator, secretary

and treasurer of Western College while at Independence, Missouri.

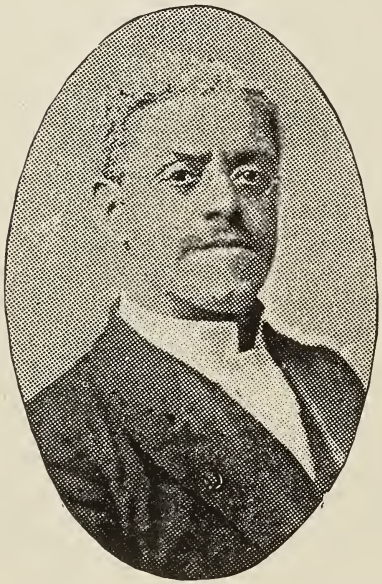
Mr. Smith has served as pastor in a number of churches, where he has added materially to the membership and general prosperity of the congregation. He has built some of the best edifices in the States of Kansas and Missouri.

He was married, in 1871, to Harriet J. Pollard. To that union two children were born, one of whom, a son, died at the age of three and one-half years. The daughter lived to profess a hope in Christ and became a member of the Church, passing away two years after that time. In 1908 Mrs. Smith was called by death. In 1910 Mr. Smith married Miss Susie Carter, of McLouth, Kansas.

Much credit is due to our pioneer ministers, and Mr. Smith has labored long and faithfully in the vineyard of the Lord.

## *PETER ANDREW CALLAHAM, B.D., D.D.*

*Hebraist—Strong Pastor—Worthy Example of Noble Manhood.*



Opportunity created by necessity, upon which ambition mounts to a plateau, whence spreads to view the reward of labor and the gain of hope, animated by the aspiring mind, is responsible for much of the great success that has attended the career of our sketch. In boyhood traces of leadership were well defined, which became more pronounced as he advanced in years.

Peter Andrew Callaham, of Darlington, South Carolina, comes of a saintly and well-to-do family of Level Land, South Carolina. He was born to Henry and Hannah Callaham, Abbeville, South Carolina, October 12th, 1862. Young Callaham showed extraordinary ability while attending the public school of Level Land, from which he soon graduated, only to matriculate in Benedict College, Columbia, South Carolina, in the fall of 1883. During his five-years course at Benedict, by precept and example, he put a meaning in life that was the admiration and inspiration of the student body.

He was respected and trusted by both students and teachers. He graduated from the Higher English Course of Benedict in May, 1888.

In the fall of the same year Mr. Callaham entered Richmond (Va.) Theological Seminary under very favorable circumstances, taking the full three-years' course in Hebrew and Greek. He held his own in his classes, and distinguished himself as a rapid reader of the Jewish language. He was a fearless debater and his frequent clashes with advanced students in the forum, where he often carried off the honors, made him a commanding figure upon public occasions. As a classmate in the Seminary, the editor saw in the young apostle of Dixie a leader who would some day take his place among the great men of the race. On May 17th, 1892, Mr. Callaham graduated from the Seminary, carrying the good-will and confidence of teachers and students alike.

Union Baptist Church, Society Hill, South Carolina, being without a pastor, extended Mr. Callaham a call immediately after his graduation. So well was Mr. Callaham liked in this first pastorate and so powerful were his sermons that he soon increased the membership and influence of the church many fold. He was called from Society Hill to Barnwell; thence to Laurens, South Carolina; and next to Fernandina, Florida, where he erected a $15,000 church edifice. Having fully established his claim as a pastor, leader and orator, he was called to the historic church of Darlington, South Carolina, which call he accepted in 1908, succeeding the late venerable Dr. I. P. Brockington, for twenty-five years president of the State Convention of Baptists. The church has undergone great improvements and under Doctor Callaham's leadership is recognized as one of the best in the State.

Mr. Callaham is a close student; not afraid to face the present-day issues and advise his people along correct lines. In recognition of his piety, learning and master-workmanship, Benedict College conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Divinity in 1912.

Doctor Callaham takes an active part in denominational affairs in State and country, and his eloquence, ready wit and learning are ever in demand upon set occasions.

Doctor Callaham was married in 1892 to Miss Lillian Moon, an alumna of Richmond High School and a teacher of ability in Manchester, Virginia. To the union five children have been born.

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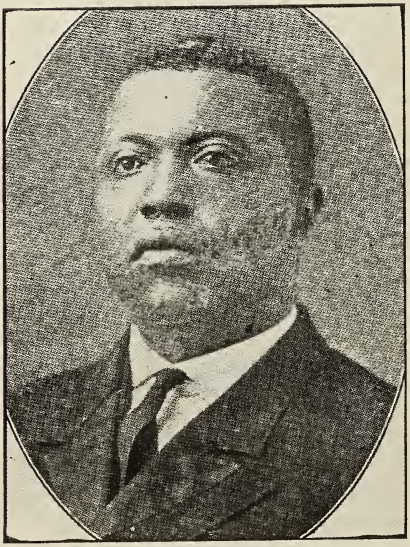
## *W. H. JERNAGIN, D.D.*

*President Oklahoma Constitutional League—Evangelist—Treasurer—Pastor of Ability.*

The Reverend W. H. Jernagin is a Mississippian by birth and a typical Southwesterner by training and experience. It was with difficulty he kept the wolf from his door, surmounted discouragements and obtained his education. After preparation in the schools of his home State, Mr. Jernagin took a special course at Danville, New York.



While he did acceptable service in the pastorate in Mississippi, it was in the Southwest that he proved his true requisites of leadership. He entered the pastorate at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, under very unfavorable conditions. He soon transformed conditions; erected a handsome

church edifice, paid for it, invigorated the town through the power of his sermons, and gave the Baptists a new standing in the State. During his twelve-years ministry in the new State he took an active part in the political improvement of the people and was for a long time president of the Oklahoma Constitutional League.

The measure of a man's greatness is service; and Doctor Jernagin's services to the denomination are not confined to the State of Oklahoma or the District of Columbia, to which he has been recently called. For eleven years he has acted as treasurer of the National B. Y. P. U. Board, and for an equal number of years has been active in every movement looking to the welfare of the National Baptist Convention.

Mr. Jernagin believes that economy will buy land, secure homes and make men independent. And wherever he pastors, he makes it an unalterable rule to teach his people the advantages of material prosperity.

The Reverend Jernagin is an evangelist of note, having conducted many revivals in different States with good results. While he possesses little of the magic of the average evangelist, he is earnest, and his sympathetic appeals, with clear exposition of the Scriptures, seldom fail to carry conviction to his hearers.

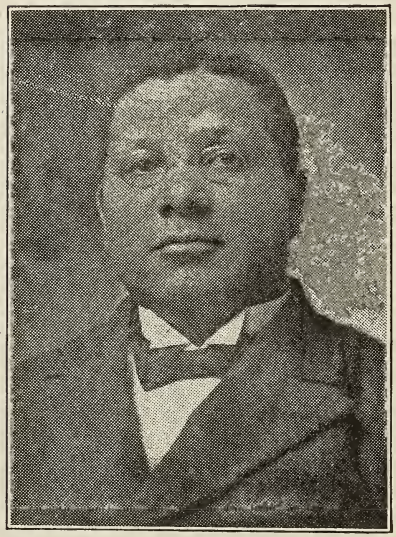
The enlargement of his sphere of usefulness by a recent call to the capital of the Nation, at Washington, shows the esteem in which he is held and his value as a man for the times.

Doctor Jernagin has a happy family, and his wife and daughters move in the best circles of Washington society.

## *REVEREND WILLIAM P. LAWRENCE, D.D., Ph.D.*

*Student of Philosophy—Brilliant Speaker and Writer—Beloved Pastor of a Large and Intelligent Congregation.*

The Reverend William P. Lawrence was born in Caroline County, Virginia, on July 31st, 1865. He was educated in the public schools of Virginia; in Hampton Institute; Bethany Bible Institute, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; in Syracuse and Philadelphia. Guadalupe College conferred the degree of Doctor of Divinity and the degree of Ph.D. was received from the Virginia Theological Seminary and Conroe College, Conroe, Texas.



In October, 1894, Dr. Lawrence was married to Miss Jessie C. Brown, of Tarrytown, New York.

He occupies many positions of trust. Among them are the following: pastor of Union Baptist Church, Orange, New Jersey; president of the New Jersey Baptist Sunday-school Convention; first vice-president of the New England Baptist Missionary Convention; member of the Executive Board of the New Jersey Baptist State Convention; presi-

dent of the Progressive Building and Loan Association of the Oranges; president of the Oakwood Home Association; ex-general secretary of the Twin City Young Men's Christian Association of Pittsburgh and Southwest Branch Young Men's Christian Association of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The present membership of Dr. Lawrence's church is 1,035. He has been in charge for six years, and during that period has taken in 650 persons. In all that he essays to do Dr. Lawrence is ably seconded by his large and enthusiastic congregation.

Dr. Lawrence has made his way from the farm to the position which he now occupies—that of spiritual guide and social leader of a wealthy class of people in a flourishing church in the most conservative city of the United States. And it is unusual talent and executive ability that have rendered him valuable as a minister and as an officer of various denominational organizations. In addition to his capability as a spiritual adviser, Dr. Lawrence is endowed with qualities that make for prosperity in business.

He is a firm believer in the doctrine of the betterment of the Negro along mental, moral and material lines. He realizes that the standard of morality is raised by contact with the refinements of life—that the mind is elevated by the enjoyment of comfort—by freedom from the harrowing cares of a hand-to-mouth existence. He teaches his people to use the best that is in them in the most effective way for their own advancement in civilization. He wins their confidence and by wise counsels and sincere efforts on their behalf he has found a place in their hearts that belongs only to himself. It is through the desire to be of the highest service to his flock that a pastor accomplishes the greatest amount of real good, and Dr. Lawrence is eminently successful in that respect.

As a public speaker Dr. Lawrence is eloquent; as a minister, he is a devoted lleader; and as a race advocate, he is in the front rank.

## *REV. LEE LEWIS CAMPBELL, D.D.*

*Founder of a College—Superintendent of Sunday-School Missions—Corresponding Secretary and President of General Missionary Convention—Prominent Politician—A National Character.*

Lee Lewis Campbell, pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church, Austin, Texas, has led a very strenuous life during the many years of his public career. Born in Milan County, Texas, the second year of Negro emancipation in that State, Lee L. was given such education by his mother, Louisa, as the public schools of that county afforded. He spent six years at Bishop College, Marshall, Texas, during which time he completed the normal, college preparatory and the junior year of the college courses, when he was compelled, on account of insufficient means, to leave school.

Mr. Campbell was converted at the age of twelve and baptized by the Reverend Jack Yates. The young man was immediately licensed to preach by Mount Zion Baptist Church, Baileyville, and it was through that church and her good pastor, Rev. Yates, that Mr.

Campbell was assisted at Bishop College. The Cameron Grove Baptist Church, Rev. F. L. Lights, D.D., pastor, called him to ordination in July, 1890, and the Lincoln Association, in session at the time, ordained him after a most rigid examination by such men as Dr. H. M. Williams, A. L. Sledge, E. M. Wright and F. L. Lights. He immediately took charge of Ebenezer Baptist Church, Clarkson, Texas, which he faithfully served for one year, resigning to accept the district missionaryship of the Lincoln Sunday-School Convention. So well did Mr. Campbell serve in that capacity that he was soon promoted to the position of superintendent of missions for the Sunday-schools of the State.

Rev. Campbell founded the Central Texas College and was elected its first president. His experience as principal of the city public schools of Cameron served him well in his enlarged field of educational work and he was by care and diligence enabled to bring the institution prominently to the front. For a time he was chairman of the board of trustees of Guadalupe College and corresponding secretary of the General Baptist Convention of that State. He is now the honored president of the latter, in which capacity he has made it one of the largest and most flourishing in the United States; a convention that supports three colleges, several academies and high schools. The combined property of the convention is estimated at $750,000. One of the associations connected with it (the St. John, of which Dr. Campbell is also moderator) has property valued at $200,000. An orphan home, the Texas Colonization Society and Home-Builders' Army are other institutions with which he is identified. He is prominent in the National Baptist Convention, being one of the State officers.

Mr. Campbell is quite prominent in political circles. At one time he was chairman of the Tenth Texas Congressional District and in that capacity did credit to his party and race. He is a great temperance lecturer, having met and defeated many opponents of temperance in heated debates. He is a

good preacher, a strong pastor and a fearless defender of Baptist principles.

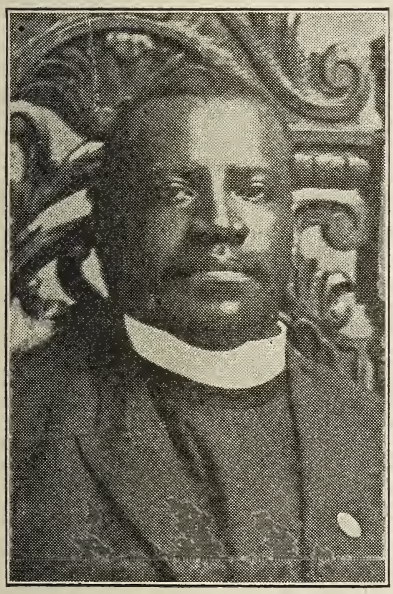
Doctor Campbell was united in marriage to Miss Ella Williams, of Calvert, Texas, in December, 1887. Three boys and one girl have been born to the union, each prominent in church circles: W. B., now a senior in the college course, Shaw University, Raleigh, North Carolina; Junius and John, now in the Prairie View College, Prairie View, Texas; and Mrs. Hattie Lee Campbell Smith, now of Huntington, West Virginia.

Mr. Campbell is a financier of ability, and his holdings in Texas are quite sufficient to make him an independent support. It is the boast of his friends that he is one of the wealthiest citizens in his State. And his wealth has been freely used to found and substantially maintain the *Baptist Herald,* the organ of the 135,000 Baptists of his convention.

## *REVEREND WALTER THOMAS WATKINS, B.D., D.D.*

*Hard Student—Author—Manager Book Concern—After-Dinner Speaker—Honored Guest of a Governor—Great Pastor—Leader of Men.*

The Reverend Walter Thomas Watkins was born at Bloomsburg (now Danripple), Halifax County, Virginia, May 18, 1872. Although his parents were poor, they belonged to a good family—of respectable, intelligent people.



Because of the circumstances in which his father and mother were situated, Dr. Watkins was obliged to work his way through all of the schools and colleges which he attended. He studied law under Professor R. P. Armstead, Ph.B., LL.B., Lynchburg, Virginia, while taking his course at the Seminary.

He was converted in 1887, and joined the Cross Road Baptist Church, Halifax County, Virginia, under the pastorate of the Reverend Alexander Pamplin. He taught in the public schools of the counties of Appomattox and Prince Edward's, Virginia, for ten years, occupying the position of principal a part of that time. He was also State

lecturer on public school subjects in the County Teachers' Association of Appamattox.

About three months after his conversion he was called to the ministry, but he preferred law, until he was made sensible that it was God's will that he should preach the gospel. Starting on his mission, he was first a revivalist, then a missionary, after which he served as pastor. Dr. Watkins is now in charge of the Ebenezer Baptist Church, Hill Street, Orange, New Jersey. The church has a membership of 500, and has one of the finest choirs in the East.

He owns property both in Virginia and in New Jersey, and has strong financial standing with the banks of Lynchburg, Virginia, and the Oranges of New Jersey. He holds many positions of trust and honor, and is manager of a flourishing book concern. Five years ago Mr. Watkins was the invited guest of the Governor of New Jersey, dining with the chief executive of the State at Seagirt.

The man who finds it necessary to make his own way through school usually develops great strength of purpose and determination early in life. The extra time consumed in work is not wasted; it is an important factor in the make-up of the man; it is a moulder of character, and he who earns a livelihood while obtaining an education is the better for having put forth the effort. He learns in youth a lesson that others must acquire, perhaps, later, through hard discipline, after much difficulty.

Dr. Watkins, realizing these things, went bravely ahead, and he is now reaping the reward, in both material blessings and the pleasure that comes from having met the exigencies of life with fearlessness and decision; from having conquered the obstacles in the way and forged to the front. The very faculties cultivated by his exertions during the formative period of his career no doubt fitted him to become a leader of men, for without firmness and power one may not succeed as a spiritual guide or an adviser to those who are under his tuition.

Dr. Watkins has rounded out a splendid character. He has acquired business acumen, Christian patience, and not the least among his virtues is the quality of winning the affection of his congregation. His popularity is well deserved.

It has been said of him:

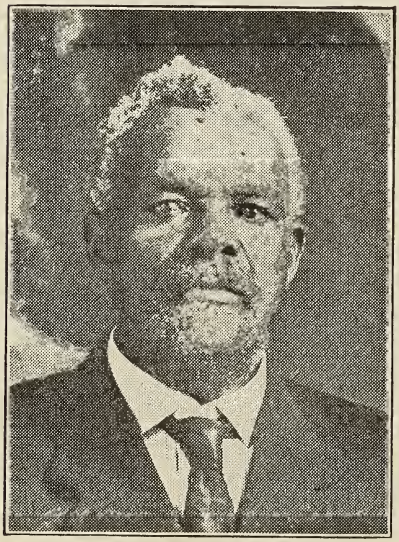
"Place him in the pulpit, and you will hear a preacher; on the platform, and you will hear an orator; and on the floor of any assembly, and you will hear an invincible debater. As an after-dinner speaker he has few equals.

Dr. Watkins is happily married. His wife was Miss R. E. Williams, of Lynchburg, Virginia, a graduate of the high school of her home city and of the Virginia Theological Seminary and College, Lynchburg, Virginia. Her refinement and tact have done much to aid Dr. Watkins in his work.

## *REVEREND G. W. SMITH.*

*Pioneer Preacher—Public-Spirited Citizen—A Man of Honor.*

The Reverend G. W. Smith is a native of Texas, and was born in Richmond, Harris County, in 1843. He united with the Mount Carmel Baptist Church, at Richmond. In 1869 he was called to the ministry. Ordination took place in 1884, when he accepted a call to Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, near Booth, Texas, where he has preached without a blemish upon his good name for thirty-seven years. He has also officiated as pastor of other churches in the same vicinity.



In 1867 Mr. Smith was married to Miss Mary Brown. During his service as a minister of the gospel many thousands of persons have become Christians. For nine years he has been chairman of the Examining Board of the Southwest Central Association. He is also a member of the South Texas Association and has served as its treasurer.

Mr. Smith has a good home, is a man of honor and is consulted by large numbers of people in regard to business matters as well as religious affairs. His advice is wise and to the point. He has obtained in the years of his pastorate a broad

view of life, and gladly gives those who go to him for guidance the benefit of his extensive observation.

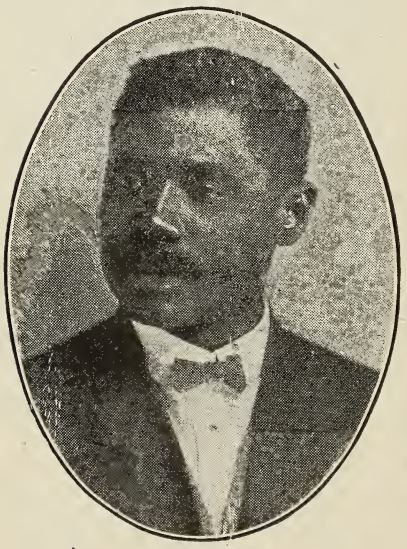
It would be difficult to measure specifically the good that has been accomplished by Mr. Smith during his years of hard work, but it is safe to say that he has been one of the most successful preachers in his State; that the circle of his influence has grown larger month by month and year by year until it has become far-reaching.

Mr. Smith is a self-made man and a pioneer minister, taking up his duties in new fields, where it was necessary to build up and increase the membership of the church. He has borne reverses patiently, and has proved a faithful and devoted husband to Mrs. Smith, who is afflicted with blindness. It may be truthfully said that he is a shining light in the community where he resides.

## *J. EDWARD PERRY, M.D.*

*Farm-Hand — School-Teacher — Successful Practitioner — Builder of a Sanitarium—Member of the Visiting Staff of Surgeons to the City Hospital.*

J. Edward Perry, who has attained an enviable position in the medical profession, was born of very poor parents at Clarksville, Texas, April 2, 1870.



Young Perry was a typical farm-hand. Between the plow-handles he followed the mules up the dusty furrows for many years; and he says that he could do it now if it became necessary.

At fifteen, having assimilated such instruction as the public schools afforded, he entered Bishop College, Marshall, Texas, from which he was honorably graduated in 1891. He taught public school in the State for some time following his graduation, giving entire satisfaction to the school authorities and patrons. But school-teaching was not to his liking, and after seven years he decided that he could render greater service to the race in the practice of medicine. He entered Meharry Medical College, Nashville, Tennessee,

under very favorable conditions, and rapidly advanced in the study of that profession; and on February 5, 1895, he received his M.D. degree, after undergoing a most rigid examination. To further prepare himself for his new field of endeavor, he took a post-graduate course in the Chicago Medical College.

In 1898, when the United States and Spain engaged in deadly conflict on the field of battle, Dr. Perry enlisted as a surgeon in defense of his country. At the close of the war he was honorably discharged, after receiving congratulations from his superior officers for the very commendable services rendered his country.

Dr. Perry came to Kansas City fresh from the Army, and without any acquaintances, opened an office and settled down to the practice of his profession. Being a man of pronounced religious proclivities and of unimpeachable character, learned in his calling and democratic in his ways, he came rapidly to the front. Single-handed, he has built a large sanitarium, modern in every particular, and as neatly furnished and kept as any similar institution in the West. This institution alone has immortalized his name. He is part owner of the People's Drug Store and has other valuable property in his adopted city. Dr. Perry was instrumental in starting the movement for the appointment of Negro doctors to visit and render medical aid to Negro patients at the General Hospital of Kansas City. He is a member of this visiting staff of surgeons; and his associates, white and black, bear testimony to his excellent services.

Dr. Perry is a member of several organizations. He is a Pythian of high rank, a distinguished Mason, and an officer of the United Brothers of Friendship. He is a worthy member of the Second Baptist Church and a member of the local Y. M. C. A.

Dr. Perry enjoys a very lucrative practice, and has performed some of the most delicate operations known to medical science. His reputation as a surgeon has spread abroad and he is frequently consulted by doctors of both races.

Dr. Perry is married and has one son. His wife, formerly Miss Fredericka Sprague, a teacher of rare attainments in Lincoln High School, Kansas City, Missouri, and a graduate from one of the best training schools in America, comes from one of the most influential families of the race, she being the granddaughter of the late orator and statesman, Frederick Douglass. She has rendered great assistance to her distinguished husband in his chosen profession, and her winning disposition, her generous spirit and forceful character have made her one of the most popular idols in our social reforms.

Dr. Perry is still young, fearless, of temperate habits, prompt in his engagements, able in the practice of his profession, and the world will no doubt hear of him in connection with other and greater achievements than those of his already brilliant past.

## *MRS. ELLA EUGENE WHITFIELD.*

*College Matron—Bible Band Worker—Missionary—Field Secretary of Woman's National Convention.*

Among the women of the race who may justly boast of the record they have made is Mrs. Ella Eugene Whitfield, the wife of the Reverend B. W. Whitfield, D.D., a graduate of the Theological Department of Guadalupe College, Seguin, Texas.

Mrs. Whitfield is unique as a worker, richly gifted with intellectual, moral and spiritual power, and with executive ability to transform theories into practice, thereby unfolding success at every round of endeavor.

Mrs. Whitfield was born at Tolberton, Georgia, but years ago she removed to Texas with her parents, Emmanuel and Ella Eugene Jones. She early learned to love the Lord, and united with the Baptist Church, in which she has served almost her entire life.

Mrs. Whitfield has had educational advantages which have served her well in the very responsible positions which

she has occupied. She first came into prominence while employed as matron of Guadalupe College, Seguin, Texas, and she was known as one of the best matrons the school ever had. The students obeyed her, not because they feared, but rather because they loved her. Her example and precepts, her fine Christian character, always commanded respect. She was kind, yet positive; cheerful, yet dignified.

But Mrs. Whitfield felt that the Lord needed her in another direction, hence she resigned her position to become field worker in Miss Joanna Moore's Bible Band. So well did she serve in that capacity that her work attracted wide-spread attention and was noted by the Woman's National Auxiliary Convention. That body of Baptist women employed her early in its organization to take the field as a missionary. Her reports bear witness to the success of the undertaking.

Miss Nannie H. Burroughs, under whom she serves, pays the following compliment to her:

"Mrs. E. E. Whitfield, who has been promoted to field secretary, leads in work accomplished as in former years. We believe that Mrs. Whitfield is God's special agent for this special work."

Within the past fiscal year she delivered 491 addresses; visited 823 homes, 312 churches, and collected over $2,009. No church has ever turned her away empty-handed. Her winning disposition, her faith in God, her determination to succeed, have swept every obstacle aside and crowned her labors with remarkable success.

Mrs. Whitfield is a woman of untiring zeal and commanding appearance. She can hold an audience indefinitely, by the intensity of her earnestness and the clearness and appropriateness of her well-chosen words. The utility of her subjects and the excellence of her delivery have rendered her extremely popular as a public speaker.

As field secretary of the Woman's National Convention her achievements have been remarkable. She has traveled extensively in Cuba, Canada, and in every portion of the United

States, save the insular possessions, arousing interest and kindling slumbering forces to missionary activity.

Mrs. Ella Eugene Whitfield is a shining light worthy of emulation.

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## *FORTUNE J. WEAVER.*

*President of Large Investment Company—Manager of Department in Great Mercantile Company—Financial Agent, Adviser, Administrator — President of Negro Business League of Kansas City.*

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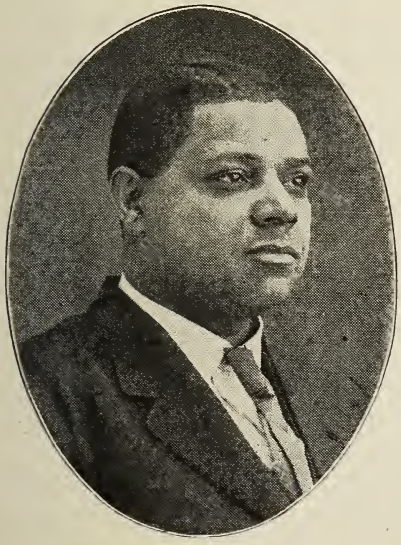
Every Negro boy should read the history of men who have ascended the ladder of prosperity, not by fortuitous circumstances, but by concentration of efforts and strict application to their execution. Our sketch is a man of this character.



Fortune J. Weaver's birthplace was Council Grove, Kansas, on May 3, 1874, and Millie and Fortune Weaver were his parents. He was educated in the village schools, and at the age of seventeen years he was running a farm. At a later period, in Coffeyville, Kansas, he became editor of a newspaper called *The Black Man*, an exceedingly popular periodical, but it didn't pay.

Mr. Weaver entered Kansas City as a tramp with ten cents in his pocket and not an acquaintance to assist him. After walking the streets awhile, Mr. Weaver was employed by the Webb-Freyschlag Mercantile Company, and because of his honesty and business ability he was promoted until he became the manager of the holiday department. The company is one of the oldest and most substantial in the West, and Mr. Weaver owes his advancement to the fact that he is capable and efficient as well as trustworthy.

Mr. Weaver stands out conspicuously as a financier. He is President of the Afro-American Investment and Employment Company, a firm that transacts annually $90,000 worth of business in Kansas City, Mo. It was through his efforts that the company was organized, and it is still largely through his exertions that it maintains its prestige as one of the mammoth institutions of the race, employing ninety-two people in the various branches. The number of persons who have been directly benefited by the Afro-American Investment Company and Employment Bureau would be hard to estimate, but in one year work has been secured for between four and five thousand Negroes, and colored men and women are constantly encouraged to buy homes—to take the first step in prosperity by becoming property-owners.

Mr. Weaver should be emulated by young men throughout the country. There is a wonderful field open to the Negro, if he will interest himself along commercial lines and compete with white men for the patronage of the race. And Mr. Weaver has a mission which he is amply able to fill. He is demonstrating the truth that success does not depend altogether upon color or previous condition, but upon energy and determination. Opportunity comes every day and at all times to those who are awake to the possibilities.

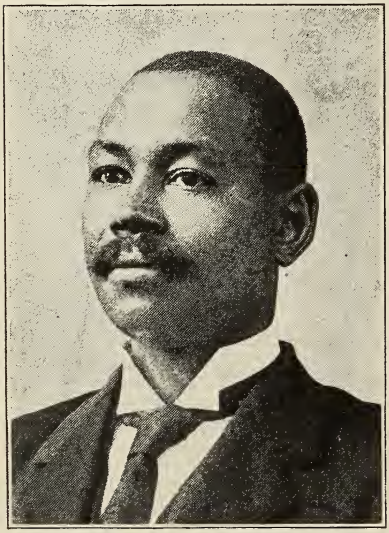
Mr. Weaver is kind, generous and painstaking, which accounts for his having reached a high place among business men. He is active in church work, and he was at one time treasurer of the Second Baptist Church, the largest in the

West. He is a Y. M. C. A. worker and takes part in every movement looking toward the betterment of the race. Mr. Weaver is president of the Negro Business League of Kansas City. He is a married man and Mrs. Weaver is a competent business woman, having recently become president of a floral company that is enjoying a most excellent trade.

Leaders have felt for several years that if the steady flow of money that goes from the colored people into the coffers of white men of the different professions could be diverted to representatives of the Afro-American race, it would result in greater ambition and greater achievement among its members. Why should there not be a larger number of Negro doctors, lawyers, merchants and mechanics? The Negro can serve his own people with satisfaction to himself and to his patrons. Mr. Weaver is an example of what can be accomplished by a bright, earnest, intelligent and sincere colored man who has strength of character and steadfastness of purpose.

## *PROFESSOR G. N. BOWEN, A.B., A.M.*

*Prize-Winner—College President—Professor of Biology.*



Professor G. N. Bowen was born in Granger County, Tennessee, on February 10th, 1869, to Jackson R. and Victoria Bowen. He gave evidence of extraordinary intelligence at a very early age, and his parents, determined to give him the benefit of the best possible education, placed him in the public school. After graduation from the district school he entered Morristown College, and successfully completed the course. He then matriculated in Roger Williams University, Nashville, Tennessee, carrying off many honors, and winning distinction as a debater and orator. He excelled in the sciences and in the ancient languages, and was the recipient of a gold medal for his excellent scholarship.

Professor Bowen was elected president of the Intercollegiate Lecture Bureau, and while serving in that capacity he had the honor of introducing the Honorable C. H. J. Taylor, politician, statesman, and register of the United States Treasury. His address upon that occasion is said to have been a

masterly effort. It at once placed him in the public eye as an exceptionally fine orator.

After taking his Bachelor's degree he was elected teacher in Nelson Merry College, Jefferson City, Tennessee. Subsequently he became the president of the institution, occupying that position for ten years.

Later he was made professor of biology at Douglass High School, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, in which position he still gives great satisfaction.

Several years ago he was united in marriage with Miss Murphy, of Tennessee. Mrs. Bowen is an accomplished woman—a graduate of Roger Williams University. Five promising children have been born to the fortunate parents.

Professor Bowen, modest to a fault, pleasing in manner, dashing and earnest in all that pertains to the uplift of the race, holds a unique position among the great men of the race and denomination.

He was converted in 1887 and is now an officer in the First Baptist Church at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

## *MRS. IDA M. BOWMAN BECKS.*

*Elocutionist—Lecturer—Field Secretary Woman's National Baptist Convention.*

Mrs. Ida M. Bowman Becks was born at Armstrong, Howard County, Missouri, on March 28, 1880, to Mr. and Mrs. Milton Bowman, who were among the early settlers of that county. Her father died when she was eleven years old, and as there was a family of eight children, it was a great task for the mother to provide for them and send them to school.

Mrs. Becks completed the grammar school course when she was sixteen years of age, then went to Carrollton, Missouri, thence she attended Lincoln School, from which she graduated in 1899.

In order to obtain an education she worked in a private family—for the small sum of $1 per week—and kept up her studies at the same time. She was the only one of the class of nine girls who finished. On account of her brilliant scholarship, she had the honor of taking the valedictory.

Mrs. Beck took a post-graduate course at Wichita, Kansas, after which she removed to Cleveland, Ohio. She was converted when a child of eight, and, having been trained by

a Christian mother, she longed to serve her people. The needs of the women of the Afro-American race were so strongly impressed upon her while in Cleveland that she gave up all else and entered the work of aiding them systematically.

Her first field was at Dayton, Ohio, where she became secretary of the Colored Women's League, giving splendid service. In Dayton she met an industrious and ambitious young man, Mr. H. W. Becks, to whom she was married on July 1, 1907. In 1908 Mr. and Mrs. Becks went to Kansas City, where Mr. Becks entered the Government service, in which he proved to be a most efficient worker.

For two years Mrs. Becks was field representative for the Florence Crittenton Home at Topeka, Kansas. Her efforts in that capacity were so successful that she was called to a larger sphere of usefulness, as field representative of the National Training School at Washington, D. C., under the auspices of the Women's Auxiliary of the National Baptist Convention.

Mrs. Becks is an elocutionist of national repute, having been trained at the Chicago School of Elocution. As a public speaker she ranks among the best, and has frequently appeared by appointment before leading Chautauqua audiences. Her manner of address is direct, dramatic, and at times sensational, yet pleasing and intensely interesting.

She is a fearless advocate of woman suffrage and is an uncompromising defender of the Afro-American race. She realizes the possibilities of the future for the colored people—for the women in particular.

Mrs. Becks is thoroughly modern in her tendencies and claims for her sex every privilege, every honor, that is accorded to man. She is not one whit behind the white women who are laboring for the advancement—the emancipation—of her sex. She is bright, keen-witted, and persuasive. She realizes that those who desire the ballot must express their wishes, earnestly, decidedly, if they would attain their object.

Mrs. Becks' influence is the greater because of her importance in the denomination.

She is a credit to the Church, and a valuable addition to that class of race leaders whch is yet to reach the zenith of usefulness. Her name will undoubtedly be emblazoned upon the records of the time to come as of one entitled to high esteem because of noble achievements.

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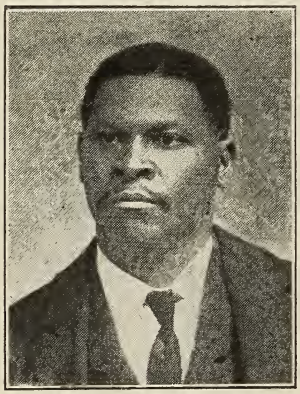
## *REVEREND ROBERT B. FRANCIS.*

*Talented Preacher—Good Business Man—Banker—Vice-President Baptist State Convention.*

Texas is noted for business men as well as great pastors and fluent speakers. It is seldom, however, that we can find one who combines all of these qualities and makes good in each. But there are exceptions and the young apostle Robert B. Francis is one of them.



The Reverend Robert B. Francis was born October 20th, 1869, near Tyler, Texas, to Willis and Mary Ann Francis, who at one time were held as slaves.

After taking a public school course in Smith County, Mr. Francis entered Bishop College, supporting himself while receiving his education. He made good in his studies and was popular among both the teachers and pupils of this institution.

In 1895 he married Miss P. J. Gray, of Alabama. One

child—Eddie Lee—was born to the couple. Mrs. Francis died eight days after the birth of the little one.

His present wife was Miss Eviline Martin, of Alto, Texas. To the latter union were born six children, four of whom are living.

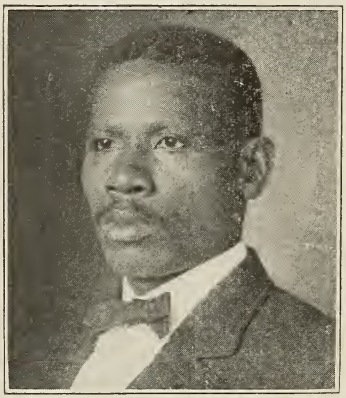
Dr. Francis was converted at sixteen years of age, and he was called to the ministry in 1892, being ordained in 1895, when he was tendered the pastorate of Millsport, Texas, where the Ennis Baptist Church was erected through his efforts. In six years the membership was increased by the addition of 224 persons. Rev. Francis also held the position of pastor in the Pleasant Green Baptist Church, at Longview. He has labored in the latter church fifteen years, during which period five hundred members have been added. He is also pastor at Pittsburgh and Pine Bluff; at the latter place he has built a $4,000 house of worship.

Rev. Francis is vice-president of the Texas Missionary Convention; member of the Texas Educational Board; trustee of East Texas Baptist Academy; and vice-president of the Farmers' Citizens' Savings Bank, of Palestine, Texas. As a speaker he is earnest, logical and pleasing. The positions of distinction which he now holds prove his capability and worth in the religious and business world. Being yet on the youthful side of life, his friends have a just right to expect greater rewards to come to him in the course of events.

## *REVEREND H. C. LEWIS, M.D.*

*Minister—Prominent Physician.*

The Reverend H. C. Lewis, M.D., was born at Mathews, Alabama, to Robert and Caroline Lewis. Although he was converted in 1882, he was not called to the ministry until 1897. His ordination took place in 1898.



Dr. Lewis received his education at the Montgomery High School, Montgomery, Alabama. He then took a medical course at the Illinois Medical College. Feeling keenly the needs of his people in the South, the young physician decided to return to that section and preach and practice medicine among his brethren.

He has served as pastor in Arbroth, Louisiana; and has been Treasurer of the General Baptist State B. Y. P. U. of Texas. As treasurer of Guadalupe College and as trustee of that institution he has proved exceedingly efficient. Dr. Lewis has also served as a member of the Board of Directors of the General Baptist Convention.

There is no more widely known physician in the vicinity of San Antonio, Texas, where he now resides, than Dr. H. C. Lewis. He not only ministers to men's souls, but also to their bodies. His skill as a surgeon is universally acknowledged.

In 1890 Dr. Lewis was married to Miss Anniss G. Garri-

son, of Louisiana. Two children, Johnnie and Lillian, have blessed the union.

While the Doctor is very prominent in denominational work at home, he is equally so abroad; and his opportunities to do good, either as a physician and surgeon or as a preacher, have not been neglected, regardless of the dual calling.

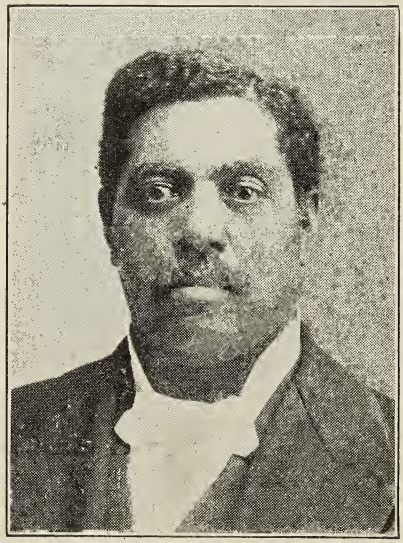
There is no greater demand in this age than the one: "Heal my body; relieve my suffering." And there is suffering all around us, on every hand. What a noble life is that of the preacher who can cure physical ailments as well as comfort the sorrows of the soul!

Dr. Lewis has reaped his reward for good work, for he now enjoys a most lucrative practice, and is surrounded with all that is necessary to happiness.

## *JACOB JAVAN DURHAM, A.B., A.M., M.D., LL.D.*

*Blacksmith—Valedictorian—Scholar—Lecturer and Debater—Educational Secretary—Founder of a College—President of South Carolina Baptist Convention—Eminent Physician.*

Jacob Javan Durham, famous as a debater and orator, was born near Spartanburg, South Carolina, on April 13th, 1849, to James W. and Dorcas Durham. His mother was very pious and sought to bring up her gifted son "in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." Mr. Durham learned the blacksmith's trade, which he followed to good advantage during the early part of his life. He attended the public school only a few weeks during the year, working during the day, while each night he employed in study.



By the time he was twenty years old, he had made and saved sufficient money at his trade and in the meantime sufficiently improved in his studies to enable him to enter the graded school at Greenville, where he supported himself while engaged in study; and it was while in this city's school that he prepared himself for the freshman year at South Carolina College, where he spent two years, remaining in that

institution until it was closed to colored students in 1877. He then entered Fisk University, Nashville, Tennessee, where he took his A.B. two years later.

Mr. Durham, feeling that better care and attention should be given to Negro patients and that the profession offered greater opportunity for a struggling young man, began the study of medicine at Meharry Medical College, Nashville, in the fall of the following year, where he held his own in a large class of brilliant young men, and after four years of hard study graduated as valedictorian of his class. Having made 98½ per cent on his final examination, the board of trustees offered him a professorship in the school, but he declined, feeling that his services were needed among his people at home.

Upon leaving Meharry Medical College, Doctor Durham was called to Bethesda Baptist Church at Society Hill, South Carolina, where he pastored and practiced his profession with great success, having undergone conversion and ordination many years before. While pastoring at Society Hill the church flourished under his fostering care, and each Sunday his church edifice was crowded to overflowing with both white and colored, who came from remote points to hear his great sermons. But Bethesda was too small; the Hill was not high enough for the vision of the young apostle. Soon the Educational, Missionary and Sunday-School Convention of the State elected him as financial agent and corresponding secretary; and Mr. Durham was so successful in this new field of labor that he held it continuously for ten years, infusing it with new life and canceling her many debts and giving her financial standing in the State.

Doctor Durham was called to the pastorate of the Second Baptist Church of Savannah, Georgia, which he successfully pastored for more than twelve years. The church membership was divided at the time Mr. Durham was called, and $13,000 of indebtedness was on the property. But within a very short time the debts were paid and the membership was united. During his pastorate quite sixteen hundred persons

were received into the membership. In one public rally, March, 1893, the church raised $3,059.33. But South Carolina could not spare Mr. Durham, and he was recalled to the State as educational secretary.

He began his work as educational secretary at a time when the work of the convention was at a very low ebb. At the close of his first year's efforts he recommended, among other things, the establishment of an institution of learning to be owned and operated by colored Baptists. The report was followed by an eloquent sermon on the subject, and so thoroughly were the brethren aroused that more than $12,000 was subscribed within a few minutes, and the strong and flourishing Morris College, at Sumter, South Carolina, was the result. In appreciation of Mr. Durham's great services to the institution, the presidency of the school has been many times offered him, and he has each time refused that lucrative position, preferring to remain as a board member, where he can do even greater service.

Because of his great executive capacity, the 200,000 Baptists of the State elected him as president of the State Convention, which office he has held for several years, and by his unusual ability, tact and scholarly attainments he has brought his commonwealth unusual distinction. Mr. Durham has the State work thoroughly organized, and by his wise management he has formed several auxiliary bodies, such as a woman's convention, a Sunday-school and B. Y. P. U. convention, all of which are rendering much assistance to the missionary and educational work.

Doctor Durham has frequently been referred to as "The Daniel Webster of the colored race," so called because of his unusual ability as a debater. He has never lost in a debate in all of his school-life or since, and few students dared to tackle him. He has had the pleasure of introducing some of the great public men of the Nation. Frederick Douglass, on being introduced by Mr. Durham, once said: "That was the most eloquent introduction I ever had; that gentleman ought

to be in Congress to plead the cause of his people." After introducing the late President McKinley on one occasion, the latter remarked, "That was one of the most beautiful and eloquent speeches I ever heard."

Doctor Durham is a great scholar, and has been a hard student all of his life. He reads the Bible in five different languages—English, German, Latin, Greek and Hebrew. And several prominent colleges have honored themselves by conferring upon him several honorary degrees. The Doctor is a great preacher, deliberate and argumentative; but when he is thoroughly aroused by some strong antagonist, he becomes a mighty storm and tempest of impassioned eloquence, in which the thunder of his voice and the lightning of his logic strike terror and consternation to his opponents and make them think the day of judgment has come.

He has received several flattering offers of pastorates, both North and South, but he has contented himself to remain at the head of the Baptist family of the Palmetto State.

The Doctor has been twice married—first to Miss Mary Ella Simkins, of Edgefield, South Carolina, the daughter of Augustus and Lettie Simkins. Mr. Simkins was a prominent citizen of Edgefield, having represented his county in the State legislature. After the death of his first wife he was married to Miss Emma Ramey, of Edgefield, the daughter of Lottie and Judge W. D. Ramey.

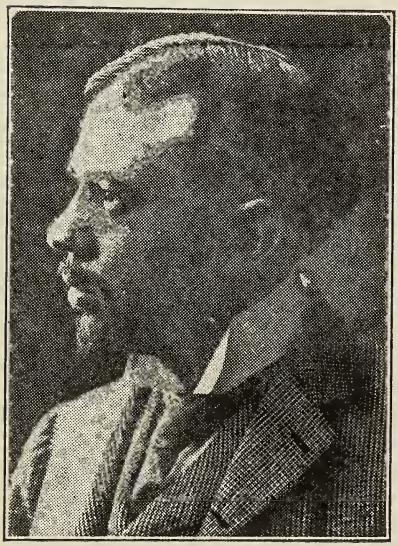
Mr. Durham is a man of considerable wealth, which may be counted with five figures. And he enjoys the distinction of being the only preacher of his State owning an automobile.

As pastor of Second Calvary Baptist Church, Columbia, and president of the Baptist Convention of South Carolina, this famous, learned and eloquent divine, who is at the height of his career, amply verifies the dictum, that poverty rather than inheritance is the spur which ambition rides; and that from lowly condition more often springs the desire to survey the lordly heights, where fame is enthroned.

## *JAMES FLOURNOY SHANNON, M.D.*

*School-Teacher—Prominent Secret Society Man—Treasurer Y. M. C. A.—Secretary Pan-Missouri Medical Society—President of the People's Drug Company—Eminent Physician.*

Among the young men of the West who have made good in their chosen professions is Doctor James Flournoy Shannon, the talented president of the People's Drug Company, of Kansas City, Missouri. He is a Southerner by birth and education and a Westerner by adoption. He first saw the light of day on September 14, 1872, at Greensboro, Georgia. His mother, an ex-slave, was denied the privileges of an education; however, so zealous was she that her ambitious son should be properly trained that she made every sacrifice compatible with her means. How far-seeing that saintly woman was is well demonstrated in the fearless yet illustrious efforts of her son, who, cherishing sweetly the memories of her sleeping dust, holds his own among learned men of his chosen profession, administering to the afflicted and contrib-



uting his share to the race's achievements by precept and example.

Mr. Shannon entered Atlanta (Ga.) Baptist College (now Moorehouse College) at the age of fifteen years. He completed the scientific course in May, 1891. His career in the college was brilliant, and while at Atlanta he acquitted himself like a man.

From 1891 to 1894 Mr. Shannon engaged in teaching school, studying in the meantime for his higher course elsewhere later on. Franklin, Kensington, Sparta and Lafayette schools of his State felt the magic touch of his scholarship and discipline, the latter being a high school.

In September, 1894, Mr. Shannon matriculated in the Meharry Medical College, Nashville, Tennessee, and after four years' hard work, graduated in February, 1898, and immediately went West to Kansas City, Missouri, and began the practice of his chosen profession under very favorable circumstances. He at once identified himself with the Second Baptist Church and many civic enterprises of that city, looking forward to the uplift of the people. The Young Men's Christian Association elected him as its treasurer, and the Twin City Business League used him in the same capacity. He is at present secretary of the Pan-Missouri Medical Society and president of the People's Drug Company. He is also a member of the Masonic and Odd Fellow lodges of the city.

Doctor Shannon has enjoyed almost from the beginning of his medical career a large and very lucrative practice, and his skill as a physician is recognized by eminent surgeons of the State. He is a member of the visiting staff of physicians to the General Hospital of Kansas City.

Doctor Shannon is a man of very temperate habits and enjoys the distinction of being a teetotaler. He is correct in his bearing and immaculate in his dress. He is reserved and sedate, but one of the most congenial professional men of the West. He owns much residence and business property in his

adopted city, and holds a large interest in the People's Drug Company.

No small event in the distinguished career of our sketch was his uniting in wedlock with Miss Rosalind L. Reid, in 1904, the climax of his early school days. Mrs. Shannon is of Southern birth, being a native of Alabama, and an alumna of Spelman Seminary, Atlanta, Georgia. In joint commencement exercises they both filled contiguous numbers on the program and were awarded their diplomas from the same hand. Mrs. Shannon is a woman of unusual brilliancy, having taught previous to her marriage in the public schools of Mississippi, Georgia and Missouri. For seven years she was first assistant in the Garrison School, Kansas City, and while serving in that capacity achieved much distinction as a vocalist and reader. She is a devout Christian, earnest and faithful, and is closely connected with every reform movement, and has rendered from time to time valuable services to her church—the Second Baptist, with which she has long been identified. It is through such characters as Doctor and Mrs. Shannon that advancement along the highway of prosperity is certain, and the members of the race everywhere may well point with pride to their lives of usefulness and find in them food for reflection in years to come.

## *REVEREND THOMAS O. FULLER, A.M., Ph.D.*

*Class Valedictorian—School-Teacher—Senator—President of a College—Minister—Great Advocate of Equal Rights.*

The last Negro to occupy a seat in the upper branch of the State Legislature of his native commonwealth was the learned and eloquent Thomas O. Fuller, of North Carolina. And his experience as a law-maker has made him one of the leading men of the race.

The Reverend Thomas O. Fuller was born to J. Henderson and Mary Eliza Fuller on October 25, 1867, at Franklinton, a hamlet near Raleigh North Carolina. Although his parents were poor, they were devoted Christians, and the real foundation of their son's greatness was laid in the humble home where he was taught to regard the invisible things of the soul and the higher mental faculties as of much more importance than worldly wealth.

The father was a wheelwright and carpenter, and young Thomas followed those vocations in his first youth, hoeing cotton in the intervals between periods of work along the other lines. He was the baby of the family in which there were fourteen children. At five years of age he attended a private school, but his education was hardly begun until after the establishment of the State Normal in his home town, when he received systematic instruction. In 1885 he entered Shaw University, where he made excellent advancement.

He became a minister of the gospel in 1886, the year in which his revered mother was called from the cares of earth to her long rest.

So trustworthy had the young man become in the discharge of the less important duties devolving upon him that he was promoted to the charge of the dining- and reading-rooms of the school. He was also appointed assistant teacher by the Home Mission Society during his closing years at the institution, from which he was graduated in 1890. His ordination took place in April of the same year.

Dr. Fuller is justly considered one of the best orators that came out of Shaw. He was at one time president of the Lyceum. After some years' experience as a teacher in the public schools, he founded the Franklinton Girls' Training School. From that position he was called to Warrenton. While engaged in other work he also officiated as secretary of the North Carolina Sunday-School Convention.

The rare qualities inherent in Dr. Fuller that distinguished him as a race leader became apparent during his residence at Warrenton. In a fierce campaign he was elected over his white rival as State Senator in 1899. Dr. Fuller's talents had ample opportunities for display in the Legislature and he used them in the interest of the colored race, introducing bills that were for the good of the people, and thereby winning the respect and admiration of both the whites and the Negroes. Some of the most eloquent addresses ever delivered in the Senate of the old "Tar-heel" State were delivered by Dr. Fuller.

In 1900 he was elected principal of Howe Institute, Memphis, Tennessee, which position he still fills with credit. From an ordinary third-grade high school, with property worth $20,000, the institution has steadily increased, both in influence and finances, until to-day it has a faculty of twenty members, six hundred students and $60,000 in property. It compares favorably with our colleges, and the end is not yet,

for Howe Institute will undoubtedly grow with the passing years.

Dr. Fuller is a ready writer. He is the author of a book, entitled "Twenty Years in Public Life," which deals with the trials and the ordeals incident to the career of a law-maker. The volume bears strong testimony to Dr. Fuller's ability as a writer and statesman. He is constantly in demand as a lecturer before colleges and universities. Dr. Fuller bears the degrees of Ph.D. and D.D. worthily. He is married—to a graduate of Shaw—and has a most interesting family.

The Doctor is one of the assistant secretaries of the National Baptist Convention and wields a potent influence in denominational progress.

As a sermonizer Dr. Fuller has attained a most enviable reputation. His productions are richly endowed with imagery and pathos, and they are filled with food for deepest thought.

## *SAMUEL LIPSCOMBAGEAU MONTGOMEREAU FRANCIS, B.A., D.D., Ph.D.*

*Race Advocate—Brilliant Minister and Scholar.*

Samuel Lipscombageau Montgomereau Francis, son of James and Eleanor Francis, was born at Jamaica, B. W. I., in the parish of Portland, May 24, 1865.

He attended Calabar High School, Kingston Collegiate, Eton of Cambridge and Notre Dame, Bordeaux, winning the degrees of B.A. and of Ph.B.; his Alma Mater and Latta University conferred upon him the degrees of M.A. and Ph.D. in course.

Dr. Francis studied theology at Pastors' College. Eckstein Norton University conferred upon him the degree of D.D.

He has taught successfully at Port-au-Prince, Hayti, Latta University, North Carolina, and Bluefield Seminary, West Virginia, where he was professor of classics and president.

He is master of seven different languages, speaking several of them fluently.

Dr. Francis has been pastor of churches in West Virginia, Kentucky, and Illinois. At Chicago he built a $40,000 house of worship, the Providence Baptist Church, which stands as a monument to his energy and influence. He is now dean of the New Chicago Religious Training Seminary, at Chicago, Illinois.

Dr. Francis is recognized in the United States and elsewhere as a man of great intellect. His educational advantages, his natural ability and his personality have made him a leader of whom his followers may well be proud. He has traveled extensively, and his breadth of mind and modern

ideas have proved to be of great value to the institutions in which he has been an instructor. He is devoted to the interests of the race, and is one of the foremost advocates of reforms. He would teach the masses of the Afro-American people those branches that can be utilized for the good of the race in general, and at the same time prepare them, as individuals, for the vicissitudes of life.

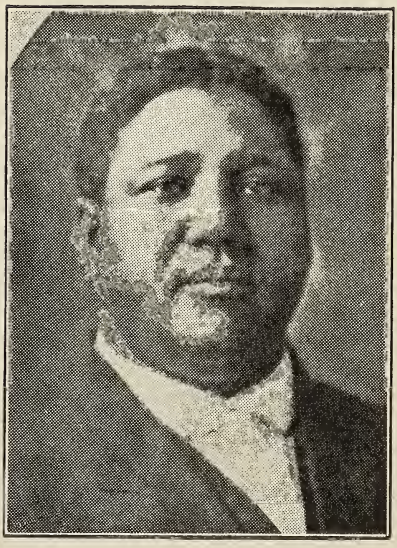
As the head of the Training School, Dr. Francis is enabled to send out highly educated although practical instructors, who will spread the gospel and also look after the material welfare of their charges.

Dr. Francis is a believer in the great future of the Afro-Americans and is working with that end in view.

## *REV. J. G. GATHINGS.*

*Model Christian Leader—Teacher—Sunday-School Worker—General Missionary of Texas.*

There is a great demand for more leaders of great force of character, especially in the ministry. And the subject of this sketch is a valuable addition to that profession.



The Reverend J. G. Gathings, of Goliad, Texas, was born near Prairie Station, Mississippi, in 1867. Long before he attained his majority the boy was employed as a teacher in the public schools.

In 1880 he professed a hope in Christ and was called to the ministry.

Leaving Mississippi in 1893, he settled near Richmond, Texas, where he accepted a position in the public schools, teaching for nine years.

Through his life and precepts he brought many souls to Christ. He believes to-day, as then, that one of the principal qualifications of a good instructor is to know Christ. So well did Mr. Gathings perform his duty as a Christian teacher that he was appointed, by the Texas Sunday-School Convention, colporteur and conductor of Normal Institutes.

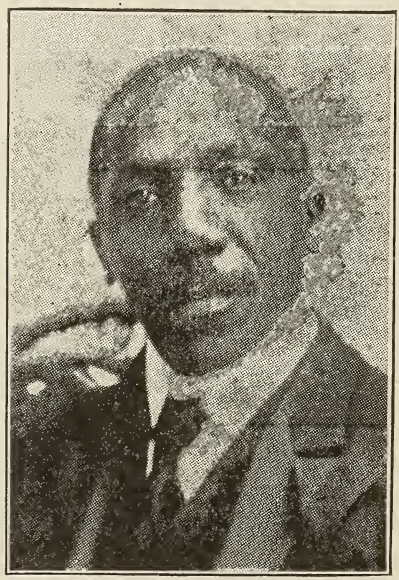
At the same time he was employed as financial agent of Guadalupe College, Seguin, Texas, which position he held until the General Baptist State Convention, at Waco, in 1908, unanimously elected him State missionary. His work in that capacity has been so creditable that he has been continuously re-elected from year to year.

Mr. Gathings is unassuming, kind-hearted and generous to a fault. Being young, he has not yet reached the summit of his ambition, but it is an assured fact that he will have accomplished great things for the welfare of the race before he passes the zenith of life. His early experiences in the training of youth, his broad knowledge of human nature obtained through his years of work as a minister, and above all his devotion to the cause of the Master, cannot fail to have their effect.

## *REVEREND P. CARTER NEAL, A.M.*

*Prize-Winner—Professor in a University—Prominent Y. M. C. A. Worker—Faithful Minister.*

One of the shining lights of the Afro-American race is Professor P. Carter Neal, of Baltimore, Maryland. He was born to S. Claiborne and Emma Neal in March, 1869. Early in life he exhibited great aptitude for books. After completing the public school course he matriculated in Wayland Seminary, Washington, D. C., and graduated with honor. He then went to that famous college and school of oratory, Lincoln University, from which he took the degrees of A.B. and of A.M.



Professor Neal was converted at the age of sixteen, and feeling that he was called to the ministry, he determined to prepare himself thoroughly for the work of preaching the gospel. Thereupon he entered Hamilton Theological Seminary, at New York, where he compared most favorably with the large class of white students in which he found himself. He carried off many honors.

Professor Neal is a faithful minister, having charge of

the large First Baptist Church, Baltimore, Maryland. He is also corresponding secretary of the Co-Operative State Convention of Maryland; president of the United Ministers' Alliance, Baltimore, Maryland; organizer and first president of the Young Men's Christian Association; member of the Niagara Movement; and professor of rhetoric and moral science in Clayton Williams University.

As a public speaker, Doctor Neal is among the best; as a sermonizer he is clear and pointed in his language. His lectures are models of elegance, and they drive home to the hearts of his congregation of nine hundred members the truths of the Eternal Word.

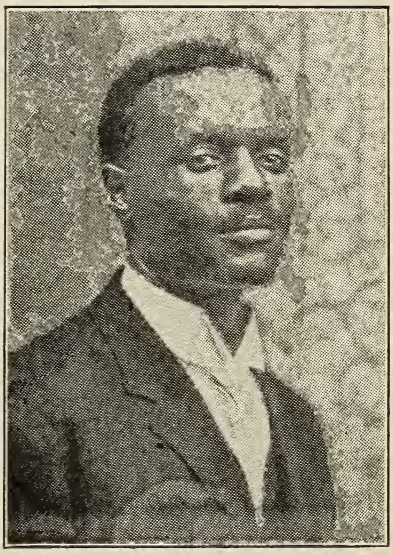
While at Wayland Seminary, Professor Neal met Miss Harriet A. Wimbish, and the two formed a friendship that soon ripened into love, and later into marriage. Mrs. Neal is a student—a constant source of inspiration to her distinguished husband. She is ever watchful of all that makes for the happiness of the home, the church, and of the community as well.

Dr. Neal got his education under the hardest conditions that could oppose encouragement to his ambition. He became aware that only men who can and will think are promised a livelihood; that thought must pass into volition and volition must manifest itself n action. And Mr. Neal is a man of action. His forceful personality, reinforced by his thorough knowledge of racial conditions at home and abroad, and his practical ideas regarding the education of the Negro stamp him as one of the men capable of safe-guarding the affairs of the most progressive race history has recorded.

## *PRINCIPAL P. B. OLDHAM.*

*College Graduate—Principal of Thriving School—Rising Young Man.*

Texas has produced many promising young men who today are leading lives of usefulness. And not the least among them is Professor P. B. Oldham, of Oakwood. He was born in 1868 to Horace and Laura Oldham, both of whom have long since passed to their reward.



The boy was left at an early age to make his own way in the world. There were difficulties in his way that seemed almost insurmountable, but he was built of the right material, and did not allow himself to become discouraged. He had faith in God and in his own power to mould his future.

Accepting Christ at York Creek Baptist Church, Staple Store, Texas, while he was still young, he pushed on toward the goal of his ambition—the acquirement of an education. After completing the studies of the common school course, he matriculated in Guadalupe College, from which he was graduated with distinction.

In 1896 he was called to the ministry, and feeling the need

of further preparation, he entered Howard University, Washington, D. C., taking those branches that led to the degree of B.D., and finishing within the required time, returned to his native State to lift up a standard for the people.

For six years he taught public school, holding a first grade certificate. It was not long until his ability came to be recognized, and Boyd Institute—which had been presided over by that prince of scholars, Dr. J. T. Brown—called him to the presidency. Dr. Oldham has held the position for seven years, adding each year to the number of students and to the amount of property owned by the institution. Located at Oakwood, the center of a large colored settlement, the school has increased its holdings from $2,000 to $40,000. Professor Oldham couples teaching with preaching and he has erected Boyd's Chapel—named after the Reverend R. H. Boyd—to which the community repairs each Sunday for spiritual food.

Professor Oldham's wife died on December 28, 1905, and in 1907 he married Miss Dennie Black, of Austin, Texas.

Thoroughly informed as to the needs of the race, Professor Oldham is working industriously to give to the pupils who come under his care the best possible business instruction. His institution stands for all that is elevating.

## *REVEREND CHARLES NICHOLAS HAMPTON, D.D.*

*Profound Thinker—Excellent Preacher—Church-Builder—Leader.*

Charles Nicholas Hampton was born of slave parents, Henry and Anna Eliza Hampton, in Butler County, Alabama, April 23rd, 1854.

In the month of October, 1865, he entered school for the first time. The schoolroom was under a brush arbor, furnshed with pine logs as seats. He was converted—August 28th, 1873—and baptized into Pinetop Baptist Church, Butler County, Alabama.

Mr. Hampton served his church as clerk from 1873 to 1878. He was also recording secretary of the Union Baptist Association from 1874 to 1878, and was licensed to preach on February 13th, 1878.

In 1879 he became a student at Natchez Seminary, now Jackson College, Jackson, Mississippi. Graduating from the Normal Department in 1883, he matriculated in Roger Williams University, Nashville, Tennessee.

Dr. Hampton is in some respects a self-made man, who displayed great energy and determination in obtaining an edu-

cation. He taught school during the summer vacations, thus making his way through school.

Being ordained to the ministry, he accepted a call to the Mount Moriah Baptist Church, Ocala, Florida, May 29th, 1887, where he remained for nine years. While there he was elected trustee of Jacksonville College, Jacksonville, Florida, treasurer of the Florida State Convention and superintendent of missions.

In March, 1896, he resigned the pastorate of Mt. Moriah Baptist Church to go to Paris, Texas, as pastor of St. Paul Baptist Church. He has officiated at the latter place for sixteen years. During that time an excellent brick structure has been erected at a cost of $30,000, and the church now owns property valued at $35,000. The membership is 412.

Since Dr. Hampton has been in Texas he has occupied the following positions: corresponding secretary of Zion Baptist Association and Zion Baptist Sunday-School Convention; recording secretary of Zion Baptist Association; statistician of the Baptist Missionary and Educational Convention of Texas; and he is now second vice-president of said convention.

In May, 1909, the degree of Doctor of Divinity was conferred upon him by Natchez College, Natchez, Mississippi, Professor S. H. Owens, president.

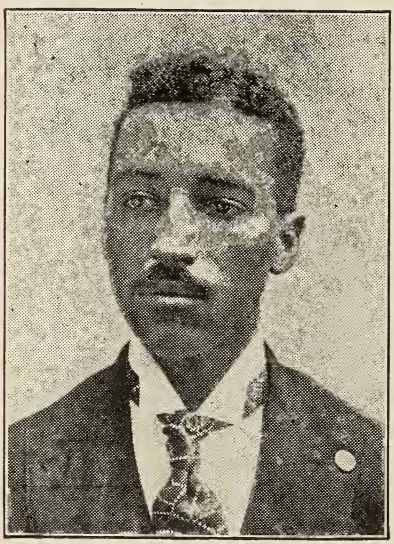
Dr. Hampton has shown marked talent from the beginning of his career. He is a most excellent preacher, having a fine command of language; he is a good organizer and a successful financier; he has not hesitated to undertake difficult enterprises, and has pushed them, in every instance, to a favorable termination. His influence has been the means of arousing the enthusiasm of many a young man who has proved to be of almost invaluable service to the race and denomination.

Dr. Hampton's fine Christian character commands the respect of all who have the honor of his acquaintance.

## *ROBERT TATE TROTTER.*

*Self-Made Man—Chief Mechanic—Notable Example of What Merit Can Do to Eliminate Race Prejudice.*

Robert Tate Trotter was born in Montgomery County, Mississippi, in 1869. His father and mother died while he was quite young, and Tillman Trotter, the eldest of the nine children, sought homes for his brothers and sisters among good white families. It was fortunate for Robert that he fell into the hands of kind people who paid him a few dollars per month, a fair salary at that time for plow-hands in some portions of the South.



After eight years he ran away and went from place to place, finally reaching Kansas City, in 1886, with thirty cents in his pockets, and that, too, without any acquaintances. Occasionally he was told by the police to move on, as he walked about the streets.

The H. F. Johnson Grocery Company employed him for nine months at a salary of $9 per month, room and board. Being a country lad, he did not discover the difference between country and city wages, and was perfectly satisfied with this

amount until a newly-made friend opened his eyes by securing him a position with Woolf Brothers, at $10.50 per week.

One day, as Mr. Trotter was going down the street, he saw a man fall to the ground, breaking his nose. No doctor was near, nor was there any eye-witness to the accident save Trotter. He assisted the man to his feet, applied such temporary remedies as were possible, and obtained a doctor. For this kindness the patient, after recovery, secured Mr. Trotter employment with the United Typewriter Company, and told the company to teach Trotter the business and charge the amount to his (the white friend's) account.

It was the chance which Robert had long desired. He went at the trade with a will, and with the care and precision that are known only to those who succeed. After eighteen months, he was on a salary of $12.50 per week; then his wages were raised to $18 per week; next to $32 per week.

To-day Mr. Trotter is master of every detail of the typewriter repair business. He is now at the head of the entire mechanical work of the company with which he has labored for twenty years. The manager of the company asserts that the young man is the most efficient typewriter mechanic in Kansas City; that he is capable of doing work which no one else in the city could accomplish.

Mr. Trotter is married and has an interesting family. He enjoys the church work that is imposed upon him each Sabbath. He is a striking example of what the young men of the race can do. His pleasant manners and superior intelligence have rendered him extremely popular among his associates, and his influence over others has been invariably exerted for their good.

Many Negroes are occupying positions of trust in concerns owned by whites. While the fact is kept a secret, they are making history for the race, demonstrating that it is the man who can do the work, regardless of color, that counts in the world of business. And Robert Tate Trotter stands out

as an example of what a man of color can do in eliminating race prejudice.

Mr. Trotter is worthy of all the good fortune that has come to him.

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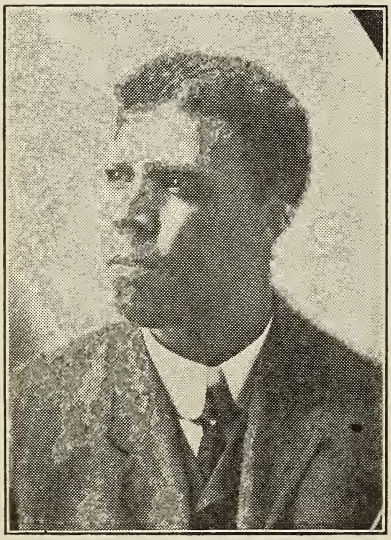
## *REVEREND R. A. BROYLES.*

### *Brilliant Pulpit Orator—Welfare Worker.*

The Reverend R. A. Broyles is known as one of the most brilliant young pulpiteers in the West. And he uses his talents for the welfare of the colored people who have had no advantages—who need instruction and guidance.



Mr. Broyles was graduated from Benedict College, South Carolina, and accepted a position as principal of the Belton High School, in that State. In 1894 he resigned to go to Texas, where he became principal of the High School at Longview. Some time afterward he gave up the work at Longview to enter upon a greater sphere of usefulness, as principal of the State Deaf, Dumb and Blind Institute for Colored Youths at Austin, Texas. In the meantime he was united in marriage to Miss Hattie Leovia Patter-

son, of Hearne, Texas, a graduate of the Texas State Normal School, at Prairie View.

Leaving Austin, they removed to Chicago and matriculated at the University of Chicago, to prepare for greater usefulness.

In December, 1904, Mr. Broyles was called to the pastorate at Paris, Illinois. In April, 1907, he was called to the church at Rock Island.

Mr. Broyles is the field superintendent of the Noxubee Industrial School, at McLeod, Mississippi. The Noxubee school endeavors to reach the isolated mass of Negroes out on the plantations, who are remote from the influences of culture and refinement. It encourages the idea, "Stick to the farm," and makes a great effort to instill the minds of its pupils with the fact that the farm can be rendered a most attractive and profitable place.

Mr. Broyles, through his eloquence, has proved to be a valuable field superintendent. He is earnest, impressive and convincing in argument. His honesty is such that he is unreservedly trusted by all who know him.

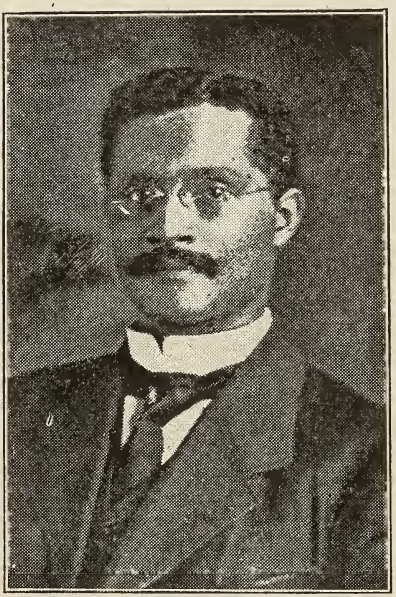
Prominent people—both white and colored—wherever he has lived vouch for his integrity and strength of character; his ability, courtesy, reliability, industry and true worth.

Under the most unfavorable conditions, Mr. Broyles has steadily forged to the front and his success is a compliment to young men of like determination.

## *J. FRANKLIN WALKER, D.D.*

*Eloquent Preacher—Successful Business Man—Vice-President National Baptist Convention.*

The Reverend J. Franklin Walker is a native of Cumberland County, Virginia. He was born in 1873. He was converted at thirteen years of age, and prepared himself for the Virginia Seminary at Lynchburg by attending the Young Men's Christian Association's night school, at Richmond. He was a student at Lynchburg and Wayland Seminaries for some time, then took special work at Temple College, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, under the tuition of the well-known Dr. Russell Conwell.



Dr. Walker was licensed to preach by the Fifth Street Baptist Church, Richmond, Virginia, and was ordained by the Trenton, New Jersey, Baptist Church, in 1898, at which place he erected a memorial edifice.

Accepting a call to McDonald, Pennsylvania, he turned his attention toward improving the condition of the congregation, and through his influence a beautiful church was built.

The large and flourishing Corinthian Baptist Church, of Indianapolis, Indiana, next tendered him a call, and he removed to that city, filling the pastorate with signal success until invited to the pulpit of the Zion Baptist Church, at Cincinnati, Ohio, where he still resides.

Dr. Walker's career is acknowledged to be one of the most brilliant among the young members of the Afro-American race. He is possessed of unusual financial aptitude, and through his exertions a fifty-year mortgage has been lifted from the Zion Church. He is the owner of much valuable property in that city, and transacts a real estate business in addition to serving the spiritual needs of his flock.

As vice-president of the National Baptist Convention, his decisions are always judicious and impartial, for which reason he has endeared himself to the hearts of his brethren.

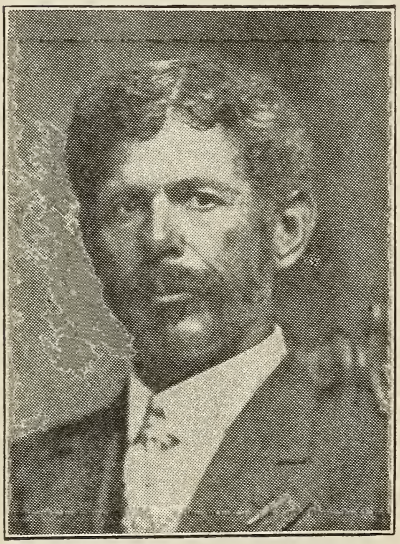
Recognizing his sterling qualities, his power as a theologian and his unceasing efforts for the good of humanity, Guadalupe College, Seguin, Texas, conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Divinity, in 1902

Dr. Walker is married and has a happy family. In domestic life, as well as in business and church matters, he has shown wisdom and proved the value of his guidance.

## *REVEREND J. H. HOARD.*

*Good Preacher—Missionary Worker—Postmaster.*

Some men are noted for saying little and doing much; and the character that follows is one of them.



The Reverend J. H. Hoard was born in Hopkins County, Kentucky, in 1862. He was educated in the public schools of Hopkinsville, Kentucky, and having an earnest desire for additional progress, he has made a practice of reading good books, thereby acquiring a wide knowlege of men and events.

Mr. Hoard's conversion took place in 1885, and in 1897 he was called to the ministry. He served for two years as missionary pastor under the Home Mission Society of New York, after which he accepted a call to Okmulgee, Oklahoma, where he now resides.

Among the positions of importance with which Mr. Hoard has been honored is that of chairman of the Educational Board of the Oklahoma Baptist Convention; postmaster at Hoardsville; moderator of the Southwest Creek and Seminole District Association; pastor of the First Baptist Church, Okmul-

gee, Oklahoma; and pastor of the Union Baptist Church at Grayson.

In 1884 Mr. Hoard married Miss Clara Locke. Eleven children have been born to the union.

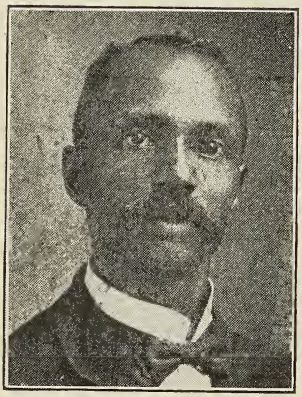
As a farmer and stock-raiser, as well as a minister, Mr. Hoard has proved exceedingly successful. He has acquired valuable farm land near the Henryetta gas and oil fields, which will eventually be the means of bringing him a very large income.

Mr. Hoard is an example of the Afro-American preacher with a good business head, who went to the land flowing with milk and honey to do pioneer work. He has accumulated that which will be more than a future competency, and his religious work has not been interfered with in order to seek for wealth.

## *REVEREND ALBERT ROBERT BACOTE.*

*Pastor—School-Teacher—Association Secretary—Prominent Divine of Baptist State Convention.*

The Reverend Albert Robert Bacote was born at Society Hill, South Carolina, more than fifty years ago, to Dembo and Harriet Bacote. The father was a shoemaker, and at one time deputy sheriff of Darlington County, being a man of some education, secured through the assistance of his master's sons, who taught him secretly during slavery. The mother died very early, leaving her husband, three sons and one daughter to struggle onward without her help.



Albert had reached young manhood before he made much progress educationally. He was a farm-hand on his father's place and worked hard, studying as he worked.

When Benedict College offered special inducements to enterprising students, many persons from the young man's home town took advantage of it, and Albert's enthusiasm was aroused thereby. Making a great effort, he was able to enter the college in October, 1886.

Mr. Bacote, having been converted while very young, felt that he was called to the ministry. He was licensed to preach by Bethesda Baptist Church before he went to Benedict, and this qualified him to receive from the school the aid to which all ministerial students were entitled.

His striking personality, his genial disposition and his will-

ingness to work won him particular favors and friends at the institution, from which he graduated in 1891, taking the higher English and classical preparatory courses.

Albert was highly esteemed, and became custodian of the buildings and grounds in vacation months during the last three years of his stay at Benedict.

Soon after graduation he accepted the principalship of the public school at Society Hill. He also became the pastor of the Baptist Church at the same place. He has faithfully served in both capacities to this time, giving the best years of his life and the full benefit of his experience that those who needed guidance and encouragement might be given proper instruction and aided in the development of their higher faculties.

Mr. Bacote is honest, faithful and energetic. He is an outspoken advocate of temperance and takes an active part in the missionary and educational work in his State. He has literally gone about the neighborhood in which he has lived for fifty years and urged and assisted young men and women off to college.

The noble, unselfish work of Albert R. Bacote will live long after he is no more. The community has never furnished a more exemplary Christian or a more sincere lover of the race than this useful and honorable man.

He was married, years ago, to a refined young woman of Georgetown, South Carolina. Mrs. Bacote has been a comfort to him in all his conflicts with adversity.

His style of preaching is on the conversational order. He exhibits no flights of oratory, but his earnestness and convincing words and manner bring out the great truths of Christianity so clearly that his sermons are exceedingly effective.

Mr. Bacote is a shining example of unselfishness, and complete consecration to the work of the Master. He has made good under adverse circumstances.

## *PROFESSOR WILLIAM EDWARD ROBINSON, B.S.*

*A Leader of Modern Thought—Brilliant Educator—Sunday-School Worker.*

Professor William Edward Robinson was born near Harmony Village, Middlesex County, Virginia, to Henry R. and Mary E. Robinson. While a boy he became acquainted with farming and oystering, which have served him well as a means of securing a broader and more comprehensive knowledge of economic conditions and of the needs of the race. He went from the public schools to Wayland Seminary, thence to Howard University, from which he was graduated in 1896 with the degree of B.S. After leaving the University, he taught for several years in the public schools, laying the foundation of his subsequent brilliant success as an instructor of the highest type. In 1904 he was elected to the principalship of the Rappahannock Industrial Academy, Ozeana, Virginia, where he made good use of his practical knowledge, teaching those things that would prove most necessary to the pupils in after life, and at the same time inculcating religious truths with great fervor. The erection of a three-story

dormitory for girls, the installation of a hydraulic water supply and the creditable work by the young men and women are some of the results of his strenuous efforts.

Professor Robinson has been president of one Sunday-School Convention for thirteen consecutive years. Under his guidance the convention is doing much to advance the work of the Sunday-school and to foster education. He is also vice-president of the State Sunday-school Convention.

Professor Robinson holds a unique position among the people, and he embraces the opportunity to temper racial prejudices by teaching and showing that education is a means of greater service rather than the sowing of the seeds of indolence or the fomentation of strife.

In 1904 he was married to Miss Sinclair Wheeler, a graduate of Morgan College, Baltimore, Maryland. She is a teacher of great worth and makes an impression for good upon the minds of all who come within the circle of her influence.

Professor Robinson owns a beautiful home in Harmony Village, Virginia, where he spends his vacations in happiness with his little family.

It has been said that the Sunday-school is the hope of the Nation. Professor Robinson realizes that the Negro race is destined to play a far more important part in the Nation in the future than it has in the past, and he is using the Sunday-school as a means of preparing Afro-American youth for creditable performance of the duties of life, whatever they may be. The one who receives a thorough education is ready to fill any station to which he may rise and Professor Robinson sees that his students, both in the day and Sunday-schools, are well equipped. His devotion to their spiritual welfare, his wisdom as to the needs of their material existence, and his clear conception of mental and moral excellence have enabled those who have come under his tuition to take broad views of every subject connected with the advancement of the race in general.

Professor Robinson is in the front rank of teachers. He is a leader of modern thought and is constantly in demand as

a lecturer before colleges on topics of vital importance. Few young men enjoy wider and more enviable fame or wear more becomingly the honors of their Alma Mater than does Professor Robinson.

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## *REVEREND MOSES W. D. NORMAN, LL.D.*

*Dean of Theological School—Noted Commencement Orator—Executive Head of Fifty Thousand Baptists—Pastor of Large and Flourishing Church.*

The Reverend Moses W. D. Norman, LL.D., was born August 27, 1867, near Plymouth, North Carolina, to Moses and Caroline Norman. He was educated at State Normal School, Plymouth, and at Shaw University, receiving the degree of A.B. from the latter in 1893.

Dr. Norman took a special course in oratory in Emerson School of Oratory, Boston, Massachusetts. He is justly considered one of the finest public speakers of the Afro-American race. He expresses himself clearly, forcibly and with great elegance of language.

In 1896 Shaw University conferred upon him the degree of A.M. and in 1901 Virginia Seminary and College, Lynchburg, Virgnia, gave him the degree of A.M., and in 1911 Virginia Seminary

and College, Lynchburg, Virginia, gave him the degree of D.D. That of LL.D. was conferred by Guadalupe College in 1912.

Dr. Norman married Miss Fannie Bridgers, an alumna of Shaw University, in 1893.

From 1893 to 1896 he was dean of the Theological Department of Shaw University. For five years he served as president of Roanoke Institute, Elizabeth City, North Carolina, and officiated as pastor in a church in that State, after which he accepted a call to Ebenezer Baptist Church, Portsmouth, Virginia. The church grew rapidly in every way under his leadership.

Dr. Norman is now pastor of the Metropolitan Church, the largest Baptist Church in Washington, D. C., and one of the largest in the denomination. He is also moderator of the General Baptist Association of the District of Columbia.

Despite his busy life as a minister and college professor, Dr. Norman finds time to do much valuable writing. He has served as editor of a paper, and he is the author of many excellent articles that have been published in various periodicals.

The influence of such men as Dr. Norman has given a wonderful impetus to the advancement of the race and of the Baptist denomination. As an instructor—as dean of a theological seminary—Dr. Norman was a moulder of thought, and his teachings will be promulgated for many years through his pupils. Thus it is that the greatest good is accomplished by means of ever-widening circles.

From the pulpit of a large church this distinguished member of the Afro-American race now inspires his congregation to use every exertion to improve itself; to work unsparingly for the development of the rising generation. He realizes that there is a great future for the race, but he also knows that unceasing effort is necessary to success—to achievement.

Dr. Norman's clear brain and noble heart have been of almost untold advantage in the work of preparing the young for lives of usefulness, and those who have come under his

tuition have learned to look beneath the surface of things into the deeper channels; to seek not worldly treasures, but to value above all else the higher qualities of mind and the Christian virtues.

Unselfish endeavor in any direction for the good of others brings its reward and Dr. Norman has won for himself an enviable place in the hearts of his congregation and of the denomination, as well as of the race in general.

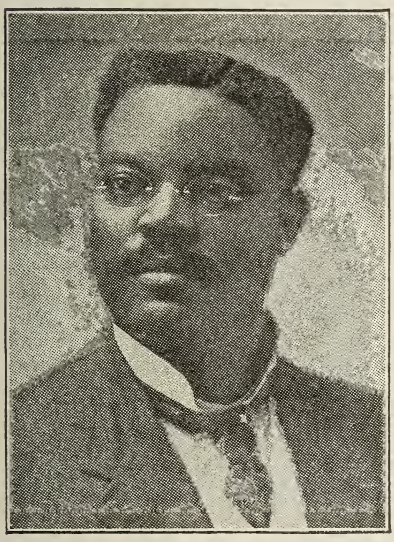
He is a commencement speaker of note, and it has been remarked on such occasions that he has a most exceptional faculty of impressing his ideas firmly upon the minds of his listeners.

Dr. Norman is employing his talents in the highest way, and cannot fail to accomplish much good.

## *REVEREND P. R. WASHINGTON.*

*Successful Preacher—Sunday-School Worker—Financier—First Vice-President State Sunday-School Convention.*

The useful minister instructs his people along material as well as spiritual lines; and the Reverend P. R. Washington, born on March 15th, 1874, at Clarksville, Texas, to George and Catherine Washington, is one of that kind. At the age of twelve years he was converted and joined the Hopewell Baptist Church, Red River County, Texas.



He attended Bishop College, Marshall, Texas, from 1901 to 1907, and was an earnest student.

In 1904 he was called to the ministry, taking up pastoral work soon after his ordination, in 1895.

Mr. Washington has served six churches with excellent results. His present charge is Saint Paul Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas, a fine church with several hundred members, who have prospered both indivdually and collectively under his leadership.

He has been president of several Sunday-school conventions, and was for eight years first vice-president of the State

Sunday-School Convention. He is now a member of the State Mission and Educational Boards.

Mr. Washington has been more than ordinarily successful in business and he owns much property in Boley, Oklahoma, and Fort Worth and Sherman, Texas.

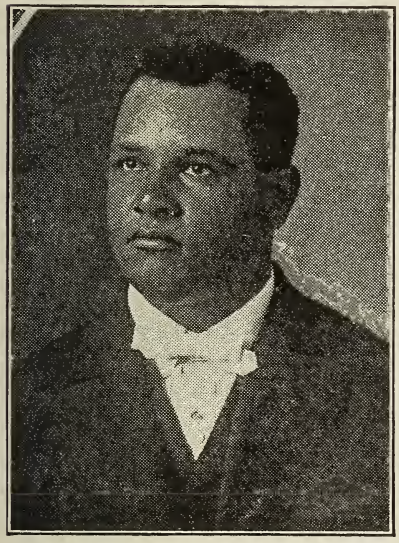
He attributes a large portion of his material advancement to his refined and business-like wife, Mrs. Allie V. Walker-Washington.

With Mr. Washington's versatile talents, he will doubtless continue to perform the best of service to the denomination and race. He is still a young man, and he has already acquired a competency, so that he may now devote his entire energies to the task of opening up new avenues of labor for the Afro-Americans of his State. There is a wonderful opportunity to do that which will not only bring great honor to him personally, but will also advance the interests of his fellow-men, and judging the future by the past, it is plain that Mr. Washington will not hesitate to take advantage of that opportunity.

## *F. L. MORRIS, A.B., D.D.*

*Popular Young Minister, with Promising Future—Pastor of Large Congregation.*

The Reverend F. L. Morris is a native of Texas. He professed a hope in Christ in 1897, and was baptized and received into the Church in the same year.



In 1898 he was called to preach, and by way of preparation he entered Guadalupe College, Seguin, Texas, where he took a literary course, after which he studied theology. The degree of A.B. and that of B.D. were conferred upon him by his Alma Mater.

Dr. Morris was ordained to the ministry in May, 1904, and in 1907 he succeeded the late Dr. Mitchell Harrison to the pastorate of one of the largest and most prosperous churches in Southwest Texas—the Palestine Baptist Church, located at Victoria.

Dr. Morris has received many calls to go elsewhere, but his congregation is attached to him and refuses to entertain the thought of giving him up.

The young minister has a bright future—one in which he will doubtless have a hand in racial work—that of aiding in

the development of those qualities that make for the uplift of Afro-Americans in particular, and of humanity in general.

The affection with which Dr. Morris is regarded by his people will render his task less difficult, and will also stimulate him to great effort, that his coming life may fulfill the promise of his past, and surpass the achievement of the present, which is greatly to his credit. Texas is proud of him and the denomination which he so faithfully serves has in him an exponent of usefulness of which it is not ashamed.

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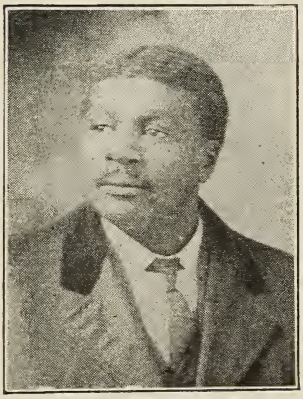
## *REVEREND S. S. JONES, D.D.*

*Missionary—Financier—Pastor of Wealthy Congregation—President State Convention.*

S. S. Jones is a Westerner by adoption and is a many-sided man. He is a Southerner and Tennessee is the State of his birth, in 1869. In early life he moved to Memphis, Tennessee. He was converted to a hope in Christ in 1881, and was called to the ministry at the same time. He attended Howe Baptist Institute, at Memphis, and taught in the public schools for a number of years.



In 1889, when Oklahoma was opened to settlement, he was sent from New York by the American Baptist Home Missionary Society to labor in the new field. He has continued to work in Oklahoma for twenty-three years, eleven years of which time he served under the auspices of the above-named society.

Dr. Jones has built the following churches in Oklahoma: Mt. Olive, Dover; First Baptist, Enid; St. John, Oxley; First Baptist, Guthrie; and First Baptist, Muskogee. The latter edifice cost in the aggregate $23,000. The parsonage is valued at $5,000. Through the efforts of Mr. Jones, each of the churches built under his supervision is out of debt. He is at present pastor of the largest and wealthiest Baptist church in the State of Oklahoma. Its membership numbers 1,172. Dr. Jones is president of the Baptist State Convention, president of the Muskogee Fruit and Bottling Company, and editor of the *Baptist Informer*.

The career of Dr. Jones illustrates what can be accomplished by honesty, industry and determination. Although of slave parentage and brought up on a farm, he was not afraid of hard work and by perseverance he was enabled to rise far above the conditions that hampered his youth. He is called a business preacher, and he is a laudable example of painstaking industry.

Those who are most deeply concerned in regard to the future welfare of the Afro-American race realize that in order to make proper advancement, the young men and women must be instructed along commercial and industrial lines as well as in matters pertaining to religion. Dr. Jones has labored unceasingly to demonstrate this fact, and he is widely recognized as the tried and true friend. He is a born leader of men; a leader who knows how to fight, and for what to fight. He is a veritable pioneer in the new State and the commanding place in the ranks of the National Baptist Convention which Oklahoma Baptists now enjoy is due largely to his untiring efforts.

## *J. C. JACKSON, D.D.*

*Farmer—Statistician of the New England Convention—Vice-President—Board Member—Noted Evangelist—Man of Influence.*

When great and good men fall, it is a call for others to aspire to their places. It was a part of the training of the youth in olden time that they should spend some time in the chambers of the honored dead among the statuary of noble men, that they might catch something of their nobility.

When the subject of our sketch was born, South Carolina was honored with the services of such noted men as Dr. James Hamilton and Isaac Brockinton; the former a learned Northerner and the latter a native pioneer with the spirit of a genius. Among the many who became inspired and who resolved to make service the real measure of their greatness was the distinguished subject of this sketch.

The Rev. J. C. Jackson, D.D., of Jerkintown, Pennsylvania, was born in Rocky Mount, Fairfield County, South Carolina, on January 25th, 1866, of slave parents, Henry and Amy Jackson. The father died when the boy was ten years

old, leaving the mother to care for two children. From that time the son's path was hard, but, determined to make a success of life, and believing that what others had done he could do, he undertook the most difficult tasks without hesitation.

While a student in the country schools, he paid his board by working when the short terms closed. It was seven miles to the little school-house, but he willingly walked the distance each day, so anxious was he to receive an education.

After his conversion he felt called upon to preach, and entered Benedict College, from which he was graduated in 1896.

Dr. Jackson's wife died in that year, and the entire care of his two children devolved upon him.

In 1897 he married Miss Mamie E. Henderson, of Winnsboro, a graduate of Claflin University, Orangeburg, South Carolina.

In August, 1889, he was licensed to preach by the Reverend J. B. Williams, of the Gethsemane Baptist Church.

The young preacher's ordination took place in August, 1891. He was pastor of St. Paul's Church at Winnsboro, South Carolina; of St. Paul's at Anderson, South Carolina; served as pastor of Court Street Church, Lynchburg, Virginia; and was finally called to the Salem Baptist Church, of Jenkintown, Pennsylvaia, where he still serves acceptably.

The degree of Doctor of Divinity was conferred upon him by Guadalupe College in 1904.

Since leaving college Dr. Jackson has been a diligent student, taking extension courses and devoting much time to special branches. He has accomplished a prodigious amount of religious work in addition to filling appointments to preach. He is known well and favorably throughout the United States, having conducted meetings in many of the best churches in the country.

During the last fourteen years Dr. Jackson has been constantly retained on one or another of the boards of the National Baptist Convention. He is now vice-president for Pennsyl-

vania and statistician of the New England Baptist Convention.

In all the vicissitudes of life, no matter how trying, he has been courageous and hopeful, which fact has undoubtedly contributed in a large measure to the success of his undertakings. His Christian fortitude and his devotion to the Church have won the respect and loyalty of members wherever he has been located.

Dr. Jackson is generally regarded as a leader among Afro-Americans. He has cherished plans for their material prosperity and mental advancement as well as for the salvation of their souls, and thus far his efforts have been marked with signal success. He teaches that patience and industry are necessary to real progress and that love of God is evinced by love of our fellow-men.

## *REVEREND A. P. COOKSEY.*

*Popular Pastor—Earnest Worker—Good Speaker.*

The Reverend A. P. Cooksey was born December 13th, 1877, in Navarro County, near Corsicana, Texas. He attended the public schools at Chatfield, Texas, and was converted in 1893. In 1895 he was called to the ministry, entering the Academic Department of Bishop College in 1900. Later he studied theology in the same institution.

He has served several churches with great credit and has built some fine edifices. He is at present pastor of the First Baptist Church at Longview, Texas, where for two years he has made a signal success.

Mr. Cooksey is yet a young man and what he has already accomplished gives promise of great things for the future. He is an earnest worker, an excellent speaker, and he has a happy faculty of assimilating himself with his people. It is to young divines of his class that the Church must look for the upbuilding of high moral character among its members, and for the extension of its influence in the time to come.

There is work to be done for the welfare of the Afro-American race and Mr. Cooksey is eminently fitted to succeed. Brother Cooksey is quiet and unassuming, yet vigilant and apt as a teacher, pushing his work steadily forward in the face of great odds.

## *REVEREND J. H. EASON, D.D.*

*State Missionary—Professor of Mathematics, Logician—Editor—Eminent Minister and Writer—Commanding Figure in State and Nation.*

Reverend James H. Eason was born in 1866—October 24th—at Sumterville, Sumter County, Alabama. He was the oldest son of Deacon Jesse and Channy Eason. In 1872 he entered the public school of his county. He was considered a bright chap and fond of wrestling. He became a member of the church in 1881, the year in which he matriculated in Selma University, from which he was graduated in 1885. In 1883, while a student, he began teaching in the public schools of the State, becoming later the principal of Garfield Academy, Auburn, Alabama. He also became missionary for the State of Alabama, under the auspices of the Home Missionary Society of New York. He was graduated from the Richmond Theological Seminary in 1890, at the head of his class, taking the B.D. degree. He became professor of mathematics in Selma University during the same year, and in 1891 was ordained to the gospel minis-

try. In 1893 he was assigned the chair of logic and mental science in the University, and so well did he fill the position that he was talked of as the coming president of the school.

In 1891 he began the pastorate of a small country church, and in 1894 became moderator of the New Cahaba Association.

His marriage to Miss Phœbe A. Kigh, a brilliant teacher, took place in 1894, at Selma, Alabama. During the following year he became editor of the *Baptist Leader*, the organ of the colored Baptists of Alabama. In that capacity he served very acceptably for years. Dr. Eason was recommended as Minister to Liberia by the Immigration Club of Selma in 1896-7. His installation as pastor of the Galilee (now the Seventeenth Street) Baptist Church occurred in December, 1898.

At forty years of age—in 1906—he was elected president and made leader of the Alabama Baptist State Convention.

In 1910 he attended the World's Missionary Conference in Edinburgh, Scotland, and preached at the famous Cursethers Baptist Church in that city. The editor heard his sermon upon that occasion. It was pointed and eloquent, and was well received by the large audience that had never heard a colored preacher. He visited Paris and Brussels during this trip abroad, and attracted wide attention by his pious and scholarly bearing and familiarity with the points of interest.

Dr. Eason is still pastor of the Seventeenth Street Baptist Church of Anniston. The enrollment of the church when he became pastor was only one hundred and fifty, but through his labors it has been increased to five hundred persons, and the little frame building has been exchanged for a large brick structure with an auditorium fifty by seventy feet in extent.

Dr. Eason is a remarkably efficient man, and the State is prospering under his leadership as president of the Baptist Convention. He is unique in character, majestic in his individuality. He is bold without rashness, constant, but not obstinate. He puts caution against hope, so that hope will not become premature; he puts hope against caution, so that caution will not yield to fear nor danger. His love finds its high-

est expression in the welfare of humanity. He is a great man, but, unlike many great men, he can be approached by the humblest person.

Dr. Eason is regarded as one of the most profound thinkers in the denomination. In one of his most notable sermons —before the National Convention—the richness and firmness of his thought and expression were strongly impressed upon the audience, and he swayed it at will, and at once rose as one of the great orators of the race.

Dr. Eason is distinguished by a deep-seated devotion to the Afro-American race; he has an abiding faith in the possibilities of the future. His chief characteristic is loyalty.

His wife, a most lovable woman, has been a tower of strength to him. The union has been blessed with three children, of whom only Gladys Pearl is living.

If we measure greatness by unselfish service rendered, the Reverend J. H. Eason is indeed great. He wrote "Sanctification *versus* Fanaticism," the first book published by the National Baptist Publishing Board.

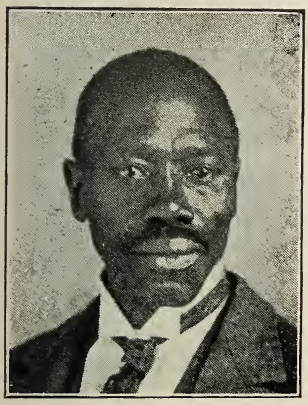
The degree of Doctor of Divinity was conferred upon him by Guadalupe College, Texas, in 1896.

Dr. Eason's ability and energy have enabled him to render noble services to the cause to which he has consecrated his life. Being a man of high ideals with a level head and an unimpeachable character, his generalship is safe and his followers will wear palms of victory when the smoke of battle is cleared away.

## *REVEREND J. J. GOODWIN.*

*Self-Made Man—Teacher and Minister.*

The Reverend J. J. Goodwyn is a native of Shelby County, Texas, and is in the prime of life, being about fifty years old. In 1879 he was married to Miss Narcissus White. Thirteen children were born to the couple, twelve of whom are living at the present time.



Mr. Goodwyn had few opportunities in the way of schooling, but through his own efforts acquired an education. He studied very hard in order to fit himself for teaching, and was connected with the public schools as an instructor for thirteen years.

In 1884 he united with the Shady Grove Missionary Baptist Church, in Panola County, and was baptized on the 23rd of September. After serving in the capacity of a deacon for nine months, he was licensed to preach, being ordained October 16th, 1886.

For twenty-one years Mr. Goodwyn was clerk of the East Texas Bethel Association. He is now the moderator of the same association. He has been successively clerk of the East Texas Bethel Association and president of the same organization. He is a member of the Executive Board of the Texas Baptist Foreign Mission Convention and also pastor of the

Pine Grove, Carthage Church, and of the Corinth, Long Branch and Wayside, Tacoma.

Mr. Goodwyn and his wife have a fine home and 812 acres of land. They are doing both home and foreign missionary work, and they feel that the bread which they have cast upon the waters has indeed returned to them.

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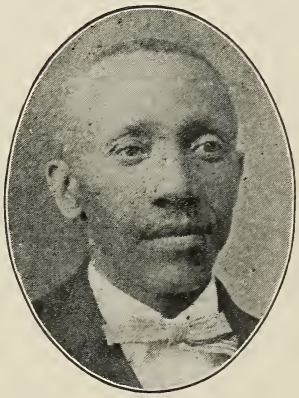
## *REVEREND DOCK BALLARD JACKSON, D.D.*

*School-Teacher—Church-Builder—Business Man—Honored Minister—Uncompromising Baptist.*

The Reverend Dock Ballard Jackson was born in October, 1859, near Memphis, Tennessee. His parents removed to Crittenden, Arkansas, when their son was a small boy. He was converted and united with the Pleasant Grove Baptist Church in 1882. Fitting himself at Memphis to fill a position as teacher, he returned to his adopted home, at Marion, Arkansas, where he taught for several years, resigning to enter Roger Williams University, from which institution he was graduated in 1896.



While at the University he was convinced that he was called to the ministry; therefore he took special theological branches, which gave him a strong foundation upon which to build a storehouse of valuable information.

Dr. Jackson was ordained at the Rising Sun Baptist Church, Marion, Arkansas, in 1893. Soon afterward he was elected missionary of the East Arkansas Association. In

1895 he was made State missionary of West Tennessee, and he traveled extensively, visiting remote points within the limits of the convention, arousing intense interest in mission work.

In September, 1897, Mt. Zion Baptist Church called him to her pastorate, where he remained one month, when he went to Bethlehem Church, Hill City. He remodeled the church, and canceled long-standing debts. As soon as this was accomplished, Rockwood Church invited him to her pastorate, where the situation was anything but favorable. Within nine months and twelve days he erected an edifice, placed the church in an excellent condition, and resigned and went West, as he believed the Holy Spirit dictated.

In August, 1900, he assumed charge of the Rose Hill Baptist Church, Kansas City, Kansas, at the earnest solicitation of the congregation, which numbered seventy-two persons. They were worshiping in a small frame building. Dr. Jackson gathered the scattered flock around him, purchased a new site and succeeded in erecting a beautiful stone structure —one of the most imposing in Kansas—and that, too, without creating any debt. The church now has six hundred members, well disciplined, and filled with enthusiasm and missionary spirit.

Dr. Jackson is a business man as well as a preacher of power. He was at one time identified with the Kansas City Embalming Company. Several years ago he served as secretary of the Kaw Valley Association and as an officer of the Baptist State Convention of Kansas. He is now treasurer of the Kansas-Missouri Association. On December 6th, 1912, the Correspondence School of Washington, D. C., recognized in him a minister of power, learned in the Scriptures and forceful in the presentation of thought. It therefore conferred upon him the degree of D.D.

Dr. Jackson is a credit to the community and the State in which he lives. He is a fearless advocate of Baptist princi-

ples. Mrs. Jackson, his accomplished wife, shares equally with him in all that makes for the best interests of his parishioners.

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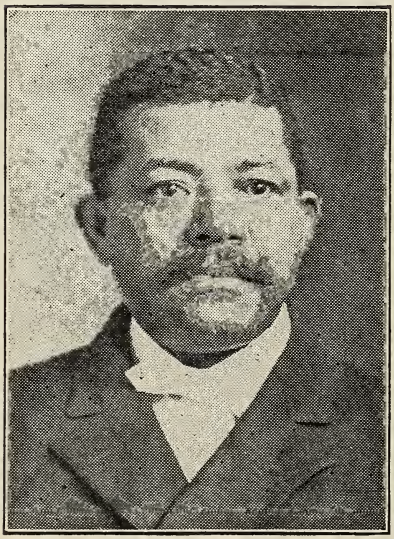
## *REVEREND GEORGE AUGUSTUS GOODWIN, B.A., D.D.*

*Farmer—Salutatorian—Musical Director—Critic—Professor of Theology—Secretary of State Teachers' Association—Commencement Orator—Great Pastor.*

The Reverend George Augustus Goodwin is the eldest son of George and Catherine Goodwin. He was born at Augusta, Georgia, in the early sixties, and was baptized in 1879. He lived on a farm in early life, and was a pupil of the "Yankee teachers." In 1884 he graduated, as salutatorian, from Morehouse College, Atlanta, Georgia, where he had been a tutor.



Dr. Goodwin was an active Sunday-school teacher and choir master for years, and he organized several juvenile institutions. His fine tenor voice caused him to be in demand as a singer, and he was repeatedly importuned to join traveling quartettes. He was a teacher

at fifteen years of age, and also director of music in the college that he was then attending.

Among the positions of honor which he has filled are those of military critic and adjutant of the Third Battalion of Volunteers (Georgia); teacher in Peabody and County Normal Schools of Georgia and Florida; prime mover in the organization of the Georgia Colored and the Florida Colored Teachers' Associations; recording secretary of the former for seven years; State theological instructor for Georgia; commencement preacher for Eddy High School, Milledgeville, Georgia, for Union Academy, Gainesville, Florida, Preparatory Department of Livingstone College (A. M. E. Z.), Salisbury, North Carolina, and Atlanta Baptist College; principal and treasurer of Walker Baptist Institute; principal of public schools at Augusta and Washington, Georgia; professor of Biblical introduction, psychology, Church history and homiletics in the Divinity School of Atlanta Baptist College, Atlanta, Georgia; president of the Alumni Association.

Dr. Goodwin has occupied the pulpit as pastor in St. John Baptist Church, Gainesville, Florida; Bethsaida, Stone Mountain, Georgia; Fork Creek, Carlton, Georgia; Cross Roads, Promised Land, South Carolina; Springfield (First Street), Greenville, South Carolina.

He has supplied as pastor *pro tem.*: Harmony, Thankful, Tabernacle, Springfield, Augusta, Georgia; Wheat Street, Friendship, Atlanta, Georgia: and he has received calls to many prominent churches which he would have accepted with pleasure had he not been already engaged where he felt that he could accomplish the greatest amount of good.

Dr. Goodwin is a leader of men, and is an excellent organizer. He is also well adapted to fill executive positions.

On July 17th, 1895, he married Miss Anna Gardner, an accomplished teacher and pianiste of Augusta, Georgia. There are four children, George A. junior, Janie, Anna and Eunice, as the result of the union.

Dr. Goodwin is a trenchant writer, a convincing speaker

and a thoroughly qualified instructor. He retains his membership in the celebrated Springfield Baptist Church, Augusta, Georgia, where four generations of his family have worshipped.

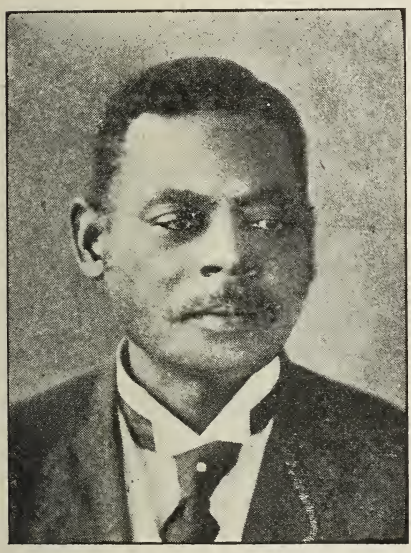
The immense amount of work that Dr. Goodwin has performed successfully augurs well for the future. The fact that he has kept abreast of the times—that he is broad-minded—will no doubt urge him to even greater exertion, by which the Afro-American race in general will unquestionably be advanced in many ways.

The great Sidney Smith once said, "Be what Nature intended you for and you will succeed; be anything else and you will be ten thousand times worse than nothing." Doctor Goodwin, as a specialist in social economics, believes that the greatest waste in modern society is misdirected effort. He recognizes Nature's talents in young men and women and skillfully develops those qualities so that they may bring the largest possible returns in the battle of life among the world's toilers. Occupying as he does the center of the stage at a critical period with a brilliant past and a bright future, the State of South Carolina has a just right to expect of him safe counsel in the solution of her many racial and denominational problems.

## *T. W. WALKER, D.D.*

*Successful Pastor—Prominent Business Man—President of Flourishing Baptist Convention—Banker.*

The Reverend T. W. Walker organized the Sixth Avenue Baptist Church, at Birmingham, Alabama, building a house of worship at a cost of $10,000, and with a membership of about 1800 souls. The church was destroyed by fire, but it was rebuilt by Dr. Walker and his good people in a very short time.



Dr. Walker was licensed to preach in 1883 and was ordained in 1884. Dr. W. R. Pettiford and Rev. A. C. Jackson being members of the ordaining council. After ten years of service as pastor of the Sixth Avenue Baptist Church, he was called to Bessemer, Alabama, but returned to Birmingham in a short time, where he organized one of the historical churches of the South, the Shiloh Baptist Church. At first there were only six members, who met in a store at the corner of Nineteenth Street and Avenue G. At that time they had not a dollar in the world. But Providence blessed their exertions, and soon a lot was purchased at a cost of $1700, where a

church worth $2,700 was erected. In the meantime the membership had increased to more than two thousand. The building became too small and it was enlarged, but again it was filled to overflowing with members, and the lot on the opposite corner was purchased at $1,400 and a commodious structure was built, costing nearly $40,000.

In 1904 Dr. Walker was afflicted with an illness that eventually necessitated the amputation of his right leg. In October, 1910, he was able to return to his pastorate, to which he had been elected for life at the time of the organization of the church.

Dr. Walker's business career has been particularly successful. He was the organizer of the Union Central Relief Association, a sick and accident association that works about 125 agents and officers. He is the president, also, of the Union Mutual Association of Atlanta, Georgia; president of the Woodlawn Cemetery Company and of the society known as the Christian Relief; he is a director of the Alabama Penny Savings Bank, the largest Negro bank in operation; moderator of the Jefferson County Missionary Baptist Association; president of the New Era Baptist State Convention, and president of the Land Company. But Dr. Walker feels that his work for the saving of souls is the greatest service to which he has been called. He has baptized more than three thousand persons during his pastorate in Birmingham.

The high esteem in which Dr. Walker is held and his worth as a leader of men are well illustrated by the large number of business enterprises which he presides over and leads to success. Educated in the school of adversity, with nothing to aid him along save an unwavering faith and courage led on by visions of better things beyond the gloom, he has developed into one of the greatest business men of the age. And that good old-fashioned gospel that moved men to repentance in the early days of emancipation has enabled him to build up one of the most flourishing missionary congregations in the South, let alone hold his own in the ministry among learned

men. Quiet and unassuming, original to a fault, his history will furnish food for reflection long after he is no more.

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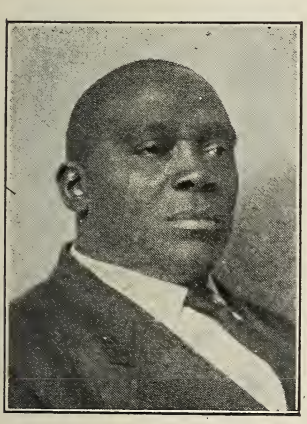
## *REVEREND J. W. BAILEY, B.Th., D.D.*

*Honor Man in College—School-Teacher—Missionary—Evangelist.*



The Reverend J. W. Bailey was educated at Bishop College, Marshall, Texas. In 1890 he finished the Normal and High English courses and graduated with honors, after which he secured a first-grade certificate and taught in the public schools of Texas for ten years. He entered the ministry only after a struggle, and was thirty years of age when he returned to Bishop College to begin a theological course. In 1901 he was given the degree of Th.B.

Dr. Bailey did excellent pastoral work, and held some of the best charges in the State of Texas. Under his preaching many souls were brought to Christ, and it became evident that he would be a powerful evangelist. He conducted meetings for the pastors of Texas with great success.

After fifteen years of pastoral work, Dr. Bailey was called into the missionary field, first serving as district mis-

sionary for two years. Then he was made superintendent of missions for the State of Texas, which position he filled satisfactorily for four years.

On April 26th, 1912, he received the degree of Doctor of Divinity from Friendship College, Rock Hill, South Carolina, M. P. Hall, D.D., president.

His resignation as superintendent of missions was tendered that he might perform the duties of Negro Evangelist of the S. B. Convention, at Oklahoma City, to which office he was unanimously elected in May, 1912.

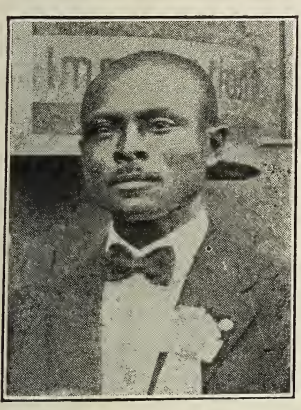
He goes into this higher work that he may do a greater amount of good for the race throughout the South.

Dr. Bailey is deeply interested in furthering the religious, moral and intellectual development of the people, and he has a host of friends throughout the country who count his leadership worthy of emulation.

## *REV. A. A. COSEY, D.D.*

*Hard Student—Successful Merchant—Great Pastor.*

The Reverend A. A. Cosey was born at Newellton, Louisiana, in 1874, to Elias and Jane Cosey, who were in very poor circumstances. After taking the public school course, he went to Natchez, graduating with high honors.



Dr. Cosey was converted in 1890 and became a member of the Stonewall Baptist Church, at Newellton. He was called to preach at once, and was ordained in 1894. His first pastorate was at Clarksdale, Mississippi, where he officiated from 1898 to 1905, when he accepted an invitation to take charge of the First Baptist Church at Mound Bayou. He is still at that place.

For six years Dr. Cosey was corresponding secretary of the National Baptist Benefit Board. In recognition of his valuable services, Natchez College conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Divinity in 1906.

In 1901 Dr. Cosey was united in marriage to Miss Hope Carter, of Helena, Arkansas.

Dr. Cosey is vice-president of the Bank of Mound Bayou. He is also a heavy property-owner in Louisiana, as well as in Clarksdale, Mississippi, and in Mound Bayou. He is half owner in an ice and coal business.

Dr. Cosey is an enthusiastic race advocate, and devotes much time to the problems that now confront the Afro-Americans, along social and industrial lines.

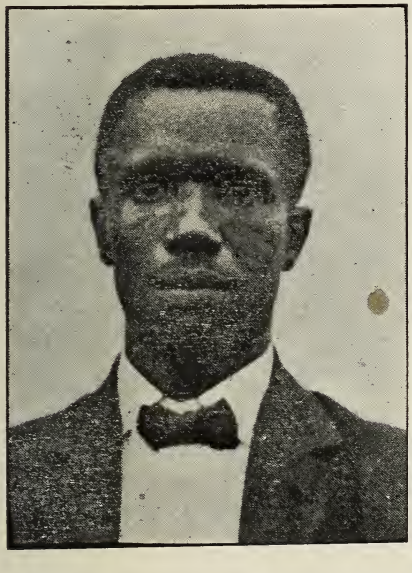
Mrs. Cosey is a graduate of a normal school and of an agricultural college; she is also a school-teacher of many years' standing, in addition to being a model wife.

It is not often that remarkable business qualities are combined with scholarly attainments in one person, but Dr. Cosey is an example of a highly educated man who is also a most successful financier and great pastor. He has an unusually good knowledge of Latin and Greek and of other important branches. Through his own exertions he has risen above the obstacles presented by poverty and made of himself a most distinguished citizen. Dr. Cosey believes in the possibilities of the race and the work he is accomplishing evinces the correctness of his faith.

## *J. W. CARTER, D.D.*

*Earnest, Practical Preacher—Missionary.*

The Reverend J. W. Carter, D.D., is pastor of the Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church, at Denison, Texas. He is practical, logical, and spiritual in preaching. He ranks among the strong men of Texas.



In a missionary church there is much to be done that does not confront those who officiate in localities where the congregation has gotten upon an independent plane. Dr. Carter has labored devotedly to overcome these difficulties, and has had signal success in the matter of placing his church upon a sure footing and of making it a power in the community. The members are growing into a most energetic band of workers for the uplift of the race. They are obtaining a broader view of life, and are looking to the goal of spiritual development. And they are makng progress in a material way as well.

It will not be long until, through the efforts of Dr. Carter, the Mount Zion Church will be numbered with the great influences for good known throughout the State of Texas.

The self-denial that is required—upon the part of the pas-

tor—to bring such results is not always understood by the world at first, but faithfulness and energy are sure to meet their reward eventually.

Dr. Carter's talent and his eloquence as a preacher have already made themselves felt beyond the confines of his church. Being actively identified with every denominational and racial enterprise, Mr. Carter may well feel proud of his record.

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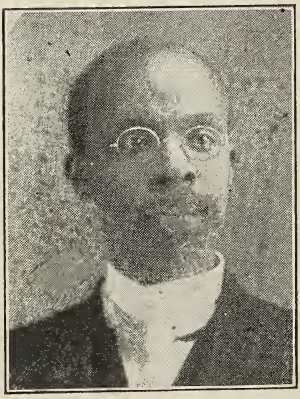
## *JOHN EDWARD KNOX, M.S., D.D.*

*Beloved Pastor—Able Instructor in Bible History and Mathematics—President Brinkley Academy—Superintendent of State Missions.*

John Edward Knox was born in Alabama, on February 15th, 1865; his parents removed to Knoxville, Tennessee, when he was an infant.



He began his education in Knoxville College, where he was converted, but after making up his mind that he was going to enter the ministry and work in the Baptist denomination, he matriculated, in 1884, in Roger Williams University, at Nashville, Tennessee, where he graduated from the College Department in 1890.

He studied theology under D. W. Phillips, D.D., who was dean of theology of Roger Williams University for many years.

After graduation Dr. Knox was called to the Arkansas

Baptist College, at Little Rock, as instructor in Bible history and mathematics.

He there gave good service for eleven years, helping to make the institution one of the best in the South for Negro Baptists.

While professor at the Arkansas Baptist College he assisted in the organization of the National Baptist Publishing House, at Nashville, Tennessee. He was one of the charter members of the National Baptist Publishing Board and in that capacity rendered excellent service. He also served as recording secretary for the Home Mission Board for the National Baptist Convention.

In May, 1901, he resigned the professorship in the Arkansas Baptist College to accept the presidency of Brinkley Academy, at Brinkley, Arkansas. He remained at Brinkley Academy for six years, during which time the institution prospered and large numbers of students were gathered into it.

Under Dr. Knox's administation furniture and equipments were secured, buildings and grounds improved, and the debts of the institution were all paid.

While president of Brinkley Academy he also did some pastoral work at Stuttgart, Arkansas.

In May, 1907, he accepted the call of Bethel Baptist Church, Houston, Texas, where he has labored for the past five years; success has followed his pastorates, and his ability as a preacher is well known. Sixteen thousand dollars ($16,000) have been raised for all purposes during his pastorate and many souls have been converted, baptized and added to the Church under his administration.

Dr. Knox's connection with Bethel Baptist Church has not made him lose interest in school work; for the past five years he has been dean of theology, and instructor in history and literature at Houston College.

Dr. Knox takes special interest in the missionary and educational work for the Negro Baptists of Texas; for three years he served as first vice-president of the Missionary and

Educational Convention of Texas. He is a loyal member of this convention, and never misses any of its annual sessions. At the annual meeting held in Terrell, Texas, in October, 1912, he was unanimously elected State superintendent of missions.

Dr. Knox is a deep thinker, a fluent and forcible speaker; he is constantly called upon to lecture at neighboring towns. He is a student of current literature as well as of economic and social questions. He is one of the leading men in Texas, shaping the destiny of the race.

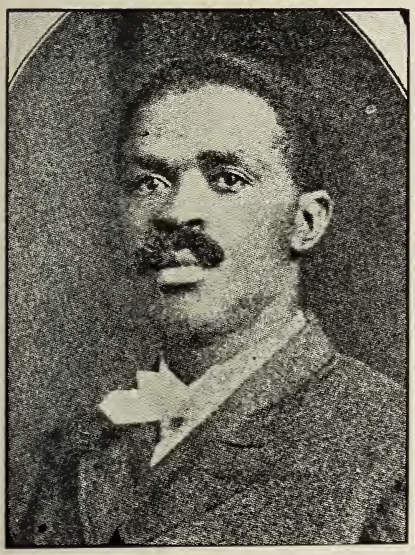
Several years ago the degree of Doctor of Divinity was conferred upon him by Conroe College, Conroe, Texas, and also by Guadalupe College, Seguin, Texas.

Dr. Knox feels that he owes much of his success as a public man to his beloved wife, Mrs. Isabella Knox, who has been his strong helper and adviser for many years.

## *L. K. WILLIAMS, B.Th., D.D.*

*A Strong Pastor of a Great Church—President of the Baptist Missionary and Educational Convention of Texas—A Man of Many Achievements.*

No man can read the history of the Baptists of Texas without discovering, among the many great men responsible for the denomination's tremendous growth within the past ten years, the name of one of the race's strong advocates, Rev. L. K. Williams, the pastor of Mount Gilead Baptist Church, Fort Worth.



Mr. Williams was educated at Bishop College, Marshall, Texas, and his struggles for advancement were hard and trying; yet so determined was he to obtain an education that he early decided "to find his way or make it." In school Mr. Williams was apt, thrifty and persevering, and he did not allow anything to deter his work. He advanced rapidly, and was assisted at times by the friendly aid of the president and others interested in his welfare. He graduated from the institution with high honors, taking the degree of Bachelor of Theology.

After doing mission and pastoral work among some of the country churches, the Rev. Williams was called to the pastorate of Mount Gilead Baptist Church, Fort Worth—a congregation which for wealth, intelligence and work is one of the most enterprising and progressive in the South.

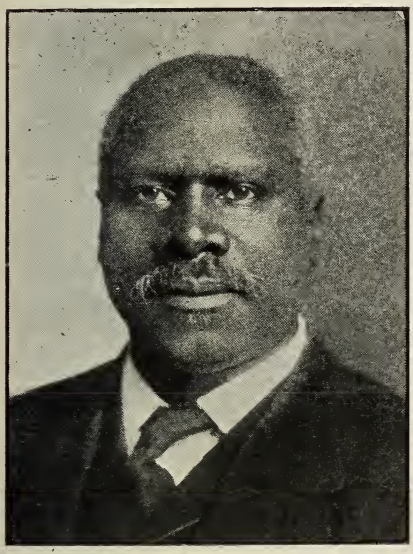
Doctor Williams is now engaged in erecting one of the finest church edifices of the country, and the amount of money collected for that purpose during the past twelve months was more than $12.000. For a number of years he has been the honored president of the Missionary and Educational Convention of that State; and as a presiding officer he is kind, conservative and impartial in his decisions, giving every man an equal privilege. The convention over which he presides stands for progress—educational, financial and religious. And the large number of schools and colleges founded and supported by this convention give it an enviable position.

Rev. Williams is a man of great force of character, known throughout Texas as a temperance apostle; and his sermons, addresses and lectures are gems of thought, taking high rank. He is a strong preacher—fearless, logical and independent in manner. The Rev. Williams is married and has an interesting family. Being yet on the youthful side of life, with a keen perception, great faith and courage, his future is bright, and the Baptists may well expect an enlarged sphere of usefulness in every department of their work under his fostering care.

## *PRESIDENT J. W. STRONG, B.S., D.D.*

*Brilliant Educator—Safe Leader—Executive Officer.*

J. W. Strong was born near Lafayette, Georgia, in 1854, to Wiley and Martha Strong. His education was begun in the public schools, and completed by a three-years course at Talledega College, under Dr. Alfred Wright, of Cambridge, Massachusetts.



In 1868 he was converted, and in 1876 was called to the ministry.

Dr. Strong once held the office of alderman of the city of Corpus Christi, Texas. He occupied the position of principal of the Runge School for ten years. But his greatest influence has been exerted as President of Central Texas College. He has officiated as pastor at Corpus Christi for a number of years. Guadalupe College conferred upon him the degree of B.S. and later that of D.D.

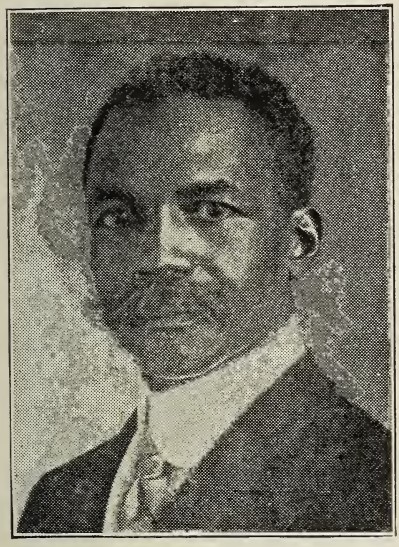
When he was still a small boy, Dr. Strong's parents died and he was compelled to hew out his own future as best he could. How well he has succeeded his great work for the Church and for the cause of education bears witness.

A college president must be not only a man of culture, but he must also be to a very large extent a man who possesses the inherent power of moulding ideas. Dr. Strong combines with a broad, keen mind the qualities desirable in one who fills so important a position, as that which he holds. His dearest wish has been to place the facilities for learning within the reach of all who are willing to make use of them. The prosperity of the college attests to his success.

The cause of education and the saving of souls have been the two moving factors in Dr. Strong's life. He numbers many of the best people of the Afro-American race among those whom he has converted and baptized. And through them the circle of his influence ever widens—grows greater in circumference. Central Texas College is his monument and her ever-increasing influence for good in the hearts of countless thousands attests the wisdom, courage and faithfulness of the man of the age—Dr. J. W. Strong.

## *REVEREND T. L. JONES, D.D.*

*Teacher—Pastor—Sociologist.*



The Reverend T. L. Jones, president of the West Florida Baptist Academy, Pensacola, Florida, was born on West Walnut Hills, Cincinnati, Ohio, August 24, 1863. When a child he was taken to Nashville, Tennessee, where he received an education in the public schools, and in Fisk University. He was converted in 1881, and was baptized by the Reverend Nelson G. Merry, the venerable pastor of historic Spruce Street Baptist Church. For twelve years he taught in the city schools of Nashville, filling some of the most important positions. He moved in the best literary circles and organized the famous Tyreean Literary Circle and the Nashville Sociological Club, which are now known throughoutr the country. Doctor Jones took a lively interest in denominational affairs and served as president of the Nashville Sunday-School Union, whch raised the first money for the beginning of the National Baptist Publishing House, an institution which has grown to

enormous proportions. He was one of the organizers of the first Teachers' Association of Tennessee. He was a member of the Board of Directors of the Negro building at the Nashville Centennial Exposition, and occupied the position of chairman of the Floriculture Department.

When he was ordained to the ministry, he resigned a lucrative position in the Nashville city schools to enter the active pastorate.

Dr. Jones has had charge of a number of the leading churches in Tennessee, South Carolina, Texas, and Florida. His degree of Doctor of Divinity was conferred by Selma University.

Dr. Jones has taken advantage of every opportunity to advance the interests of the race in a material as well as a spiritual sense. It is remarkable how much good work can be accomplished in a life of consecration to a cause, and Dr. Jones has thus far made great strides in his chosen profession. His devotion to the people has firmly entrenched him in their hearts, and the improvement of their condition under his guidance is proof of his ability.

When the Reverend Mr. Jones stepped into the arena of public affairs to guide the destiny of those under his care, the times needed just such a man. For he was a prophet that could see far and wide and a leader who could unite discordant elements and use them in the general advancement of the masses. He has steadily overthrown every opposition and by singular courage, far-reaching sagacity, and endurance perched victory upon his banner. And just as his State protrudes far into the Gulf, so his influence through the school over which he presides extends far into the inner circles of denominational and racial advancement.

## *GEORGE EDMUND MORRIS, Ph.D., D.D.*

*Pastor—Lecturer—President of Afro-American State Convention—Vice-President of National Baptist Convention —A Man Among Men.*

History has shown the migratory instinct in man to be a puissant element of human progress. God often prepares a man in one locality as the great agency by which others may be blessed. And one of the strong men of the denomination who has achieved a wide reputation in his adopted State as a leader of men is Reverend George Edmund Morris, of Morristown, New Jersey.

He was born in Richmond, Virginia, on June 4th, 1866. His father died when he was less than six months old. His mother, Fannie A. Morris, died in 1910.

The boy attended school two years in Richmond and five years in the country, living at the home of his maternal grandmother. At the age of twelve years he left school to help his widowed mother, who was ill. He followed the race-horse business with his uncle for four years. When

sixteen years old he returned to Richmond and worked as a porter in a dry-goods store, remaining there until the time of his conversion, in March, 1885, when he felt that God had called him to the ministry, and he immediately made preparations to enter the Richmond Institute and Theological Seminary, from which he graduated in the class of 1892.

Dr. Morris took high honors and the newspapers commented favorably upon his graduation oration. His professor of Hebrew said that as a Hebrew and Greek student the young divine ranked with the best in the Northern colleges. He received two calls to preach and one to teach, just after his graduation. He accepted the call to Gallipolis, Ohio, but was compelled, on account of ill-health, to withdraw his acceptance before going to the church.

After two years of recuperation, Dr. Morris took charge of Calvary Baptist Church at Morristown, New Jersey, where he has remained to the present time. The field was considered a most difficult one. Inharmony among the members and lack of means had discouraged his predecessors. But on the first Sunday of Dr. Morris' incumbency he said:

"With the help of God, and your hearty co-operation in prayer, sympathy and money, I will build you a house of worship where you can worship God unmolested, to your heart's desire."

The ground was bought, the building went up, and was dedicated in the winter of 1895-6.

Dr. Morris' work has been simply amazing. He is in the front rank of the Baptist denomination. The late Dr. Fox, of the First Baptist Church, white, of Morristown, declared, after listening to a sermon delivered by Dr. Morris before that church, that he could not have been more highly pleased if Dr. Parkhurst or Dr. McArthur had been in the pulpit. A sermon delivered by Dr. Morris before the State Convention was said to be an able address, worthy of any institution.

In 1897 an article written by him on the "Theanthropism

God-Man" was published in the *Baptist Magazine*. Competent critics have asserted that it was a most scholarly effort.

In 1902 he represented New Jersey at the Young People's Religious and Educational Congress, in Atlanta, Georgia. His lecture on "The Ante-bellum Religious Life of the Race" was pronounced one of the best delivered before the Congress. In that year he was elected president of the Afro-American Baptist State Convention of New Jersey, which position he has held continuously since.

Through the untiring exertions of Dr. Morris, New Jersey has taken first place in missions, acording to her numbers, in the great Baptist family. He has been for years the vice-president of the N. B. Convention---from New Jersey—and is also trustee of the National Training School.

In 1908 Guadalupe College conferred on him the degree of Doctor of Divinity; Conroe College conferred the degree of Ph.D. Although he has received several calls to important charges, Dr. Morris prefers to remain in Morristown until convinced that God wants him to go elsewhere. His sermons and addresses are always of a scholarly nature and are highly appreciated by those who have the good fortune to hear them. He is profoundly interested in all denominational work—in everything that makes for the uplift of his people.

In 1895 Dr. Morris was married to Miss Susie Lee Johnson, of Richmond, Virginia, the highly cultured daughter of the Reverend George E. Johnson. To the union have come three daughters and one son. They have a model home.

## *CHARLES FRANCIS GRAVES.*

*Great Executive Officer—Rising Young Educator.*

Charles Francis Graves was born on May 24th, 1878. at Yanceyville, North Carolina, to William P. Senior and Caroline Mildred Graves. After completing the course prescribed in the graded schools of Reidsville, he entered Shaw University, where he attracted the attention of teachers and pupils alike, for his excellent work. Professor Graves became interested in the religious life under the preaching of Dr. J. C. Crosby, at Reidsville, North Carolina, and was converted in 1890.

He is the honored president of Roanoke Collegiate Institute, Elizabeth City, North Carolina, and also fills the position of secretary of the Negro Fair of Elizabeth City.

His marriage—in 1904—to Miss Hattie Forester Chavis, of Winton, North Carolina, a music teacher in Roanoke Institute, has proved to be a happy union. There are three children, one son and two daughters.

Professor Graves' connection with Roanoke Institute is of twelve years' standing. During his incumbency a modern building has been erected, and many other improvements have been made. The school has seven teachers and two hundred and fifty pupils. The institution is self-supporting, although it is under the auspices of the Roanoke Baptist Association.

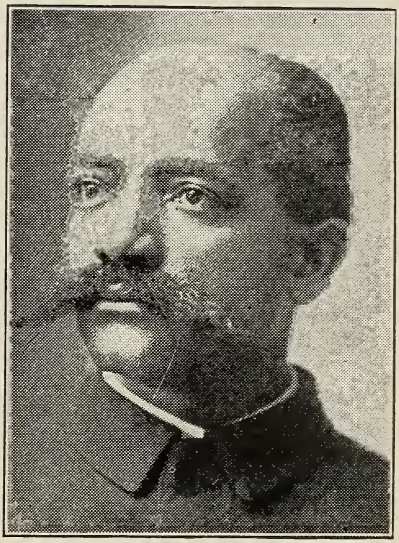
The labors of Professor Graves have thus far been amply rewarded, for he has sent forth many who are doing effective work in the Lord's vineyard. Much depends upon getting the right start in the world, and Professor Graves endeavors to see that his pupils set out on the journey of life fully equipped in the way of education and principles. He instills, as far as lies within his power, a love of humanity and a desire to accomplish something for the benefit of the colored race.

Professor Graves will no doubt be heard from again as a leader of men in the denomination.

## *REVEREND J. H. ANDERSON.*

*Able Preacher — Excellent Organier — Treasurer State Convention Educational Board.*

J. H. Anderson is a man among men. He came forth into the world in Amherst County, Virginia, January 27th, 1863, to Reuben and Francis Anderson.



He received his education at the West Virginia Institute, Bluefield, West Virginia.

On December 12th, 1890, he was converted, and in the same year was called to preach the gospel. He has filled various public offices of trust, among them that of treasurer of the Educational Board of Oklahoma. He has also served as moderator of the Central Wayland Association for nine years.

In 1888 Mr. Anderson was married to Miss Laura A. Wimbush, of Lynchburg, Virginia.

In the twenty years of his ministry Mr. Anderson has done much to build up the Church. He has held eight charges, leaving each one in better condition than when he entered upon the work of its pastorate.

He is an ex-member of the Educational Board of the National Baptist Convention, and he has organized successfully two associations.

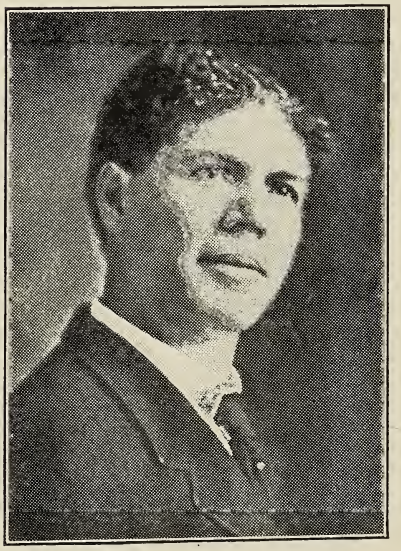
Particular interest in the uplift of the race has led Mr. Anderson to undertake special labor along educational lines. He believes that humanity should advance proportionately in a mental, moral and material way. He believes that religion fosters education and that education fosters religion. His efficiency as a pastor and as an officer of the various bodies to which he has belonged has enabled him to render effectual service. His eloquence as a speaker has been the means of bringing many persons into the Church.

Mr. Anderson is regarded as one of the most substantial preachers in the State of his adoption, Oklahoma. He now resides at Coalgate, where he ministers to the needs of his congregation and community.

## *G. N. JACKSON, D.D.*

*Excellent Pastor—Wise Counsellor—Social Leader.*

G. N. Jackson, D.D., the subject of this sketch, was born near Meadville, in Linn County, Missouri, on May 21, 1869.



He entered the ministry when quite young, having received his education at Western College, Macon, Missouri. He graduated from the Literary and Theological departments with the degrees of B.S.D. and B. S. T. in 1900. A few years later the honorary degree of D.D. was conferred upon him by his Alma Mater, in recognition of his deep piety, learning and attainments in things divine.

Dr. Jackson served the Baptist State Convention of Missouri for seven years as corresponding secretary. He was pastor of the Louisiana, Fulton and Palmyra churches, of Missouri, and served as moderator of the Mount Carmel Association of Missouri four years. He also filled the position of grand secretary of the U. B. F.s and S. M. T.s of Missouri the constitutional limit, four years.

Dr. Jackson is now pastor of the Warren Street Baptist

Church, of Lawrence, Kansas, and moderator of the Kaw Valley Association. Through his influence $5,000 worth of improvements have been made in the church within the two years of his pastorate.

He is a wise leader, active, energetic, yet characterized by moderation. He is devoted to the interests of the people, and has proved to be a tower of strength to them, advising, admonishing, commending—always looking after their welfare. And they have advanced rapidly under his guidance.

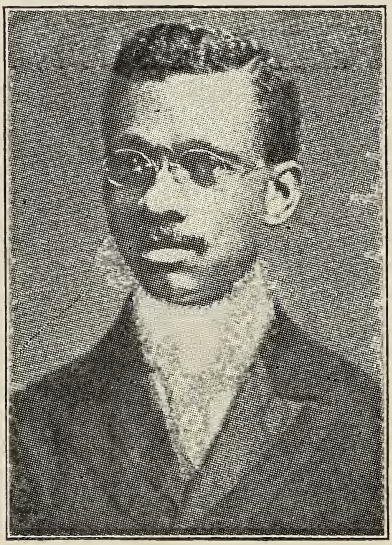
The church has grown and its members have prospered as individuals. In this age of the world a pastor must be not only a good preacher, but a good minister as well—recognizing the needs of his congregation and using every means at his command to supply them. The church should be a community center, where sociability is cultivated and life-long friendships are formed.

The Warren Street Church has been particularly fortunate in this respect. Dr. Jackson's happy faculty of harmonizing the different elements and bringing the people together at social functions has made him extremely popular, and his religious work has been thereby made exceedingly effective in the classic center of the Sunflower State.

## *REVEREND GEORGE E. READ, B.D., D.D.*

*Educator—President University Alumni—National Character.*

The Reverend George E. Read was born at Smithville, Virginia, May 23, 1866, to William and Sarah Read. He was educated at Virginia Union University, which institution conferred upon him degrees of B.D. and D.D.



Dr. Read was converted in 1885 and was ordained to the ministry in '92. Among the positions which he has held—some of which he is still holding—are: pastor of Mount Olive Baptist Church, East Orange, New Jersey; pastor of the African Baptist Church, Cheritan, Virginia; principal of Tidewater Institute, Chesapeake, Virginia; statistician Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Missionary Convention; moderator Northampton Baptist Association; corresponding secretary Baptist General Association, Virginia; and president Alumni Association of Virginia Union University.

Dr. Read stands out conspicuously among the many successful graduates of the schools of the South fostered by the American Baptist Home Missionary Society. Although he is a comparatively young man, he has been for the last eighteen

years one of the foremost workers of the colored Baptists of Virginia.

He spent the first four years after his graduation from the Richmond Theological Seminary as pastor of Mount Olivet Baptist Church, East Orange, New Jersey, following which he became principal of the Tidewater Institute, Chesapeake, Virginia—then known as Spiller Academy—and as pastor of the African Baptist Church, Cheritan, Virginia.

From the very beginning his work has been characterized by marked intelligence and unusual efficiency. He has been active, untiring and aggressive.

The graduates of the school over which he presides have invariably ranked well in mind and morals in other schools of higher grade to which they have gone; and in daily life, as housekeepers, artisans and professional men and women, they have also been unusually successful.

In almost every community in Virginia may be found graduates of the Tidewater Institute, living clean and wholesome lives, actively concerned in the welfare of the community, and presenting examples of chaste and sober manhood, and as a rule these students are loyal to the church, and valuable assets of the religious life around them. The invigorating atmosphere which a great thinker creates has a most remarkable effect upon all who dwell in it, and Professor Read's pupils by unconscious as well as conscious absorption acquired his spirit of inquiry, his method of research and habits of investigation, his manner of attacking and mastering difficulties.

This school is about twenty years old and it has been maintained at a tremendous cost of labor and sacrifice on the part of the principal. It has depended in the main upon the colored people for support, and this has been conditioned solely upon the patience, persistence and personal force of the principal. The work has been hard, extremely hard, and only a man of extraordinary character and talent could have performed it.

Apart from the work of directing the school, and despite the constant grind and strain which it has involved, Dr. Read

has at the same time been one of the able and successful pastors of the State, and an indispensable factor in all the work of the denomination.

Dr. Read is in every sense a leader along religious lines on what is known as Eastern Shore, Virginia, where there are about 25,000 colored people. In the face of unfavorable circumstances and discouragements unspeakable, he has done much to impress his ideals upon the people and to improve their condition generally. Few men in any part of the South have done a work of such import and of so far-reaching effect as that of Dr. Read in behalf of the people of Eastern Shore, Virginia.

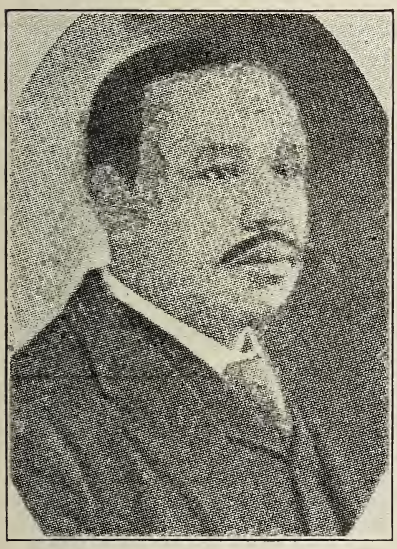
His has been a life of devotion and sacrifice and his achievements are a tribute to industry and serious purpose. He is one of the few men charged with the responsibility of shaping the policy of the denomination and the race in Virginia. He is now in the prime of life, and with his ripe experience is destined to accomplish much good in the future.

Dr. Read is married and his refined wife has assisted him at every round of his endeavor, looking to the advancement of the people.

## *B. J. BROWN, B.S., D.D.*

*Evangelist—Editor—Successful Pastor.*

One of the busiest young men in the Lone Star State is the energetic pastor at Gainesville, Texas—B. J. Brown.



B. J. Brown, B.S., D.D., was born December 17th, 1863, at Searcy, Arkansas. He is the son of the Reverend James and Margaret Brown.

After completing the course in the public schools, Dr. Brown was graduated from the Branch Normal College, Pine Bluff, in June, 1890, with the degree L.I., under Professor J. C. Corbin, A.M., Ph.D.

Mr. Brown taught in the High School at Searcy, Arkansas, and was appointed to the Peabody Normal by Ex-Superintendent Junius Jordan. He was ordained in 1894, and proved to be a successful pastor as well as teacher. He has been an instructor in the Baptist Academy at Magnolia, Arkansas; State superintendent of Sunday-school Missions; first president of C. W. R. District Sunday-School Convention of Arkansas; and was called to the pastorate of Mount Olivet Baptist Church, of Gainesville, Texas, in 1901, which position he yet fills. He is president of the

Northwestern District Sunday-School Convention; member of the Board of Directors of B. M. and Educational Convention of Texas; and is also a member of the Board of Foreign Missions, Associated Charities, and of the Examining Board of N. W. Association.

As editor of the *Northwestern Baptist Informer,* Dr. Brown has exerted a great influence. He is an able writer, and an orator of no mean ability, while as a preacher he is in the first rank.

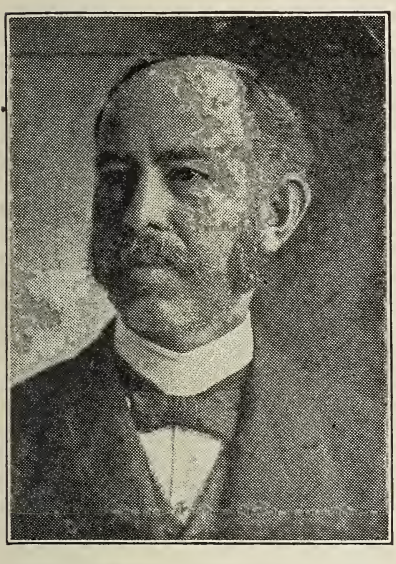
Dr. Brown's record as a pastor, builder, evangelist, missionary and teacher is one of which his friends may well be proud. And although honors have come to him, he has never deviated from the line of humble Christian conduct that has always distinguished him.

Mr. Brown believes that the Word of God furnishes a perfect and reasonable basis for the transaction of business in mental and spiritual affairs and does not allow the whims of others to misguide him. He is an inspiration to his people, a credit to the denomination and a potent factor in the uplift of the race.

## *REVEREND J. O. ALLEN.*

*Successful and Ideal Pastor—Sunday-School Worker—Ex-Vice-President of South Carolina Baptist Convention.*

The Reverend J. O. Allen, of Greenville, South Carolina, was ordained to the gospel ministry in November, 1887. He has been and is still officiating in some of the best churches in Greenville, Laurens and Spartanburg counties.



Mr. Allen is regarded as an ideal pastor and Biblical teacher, looking faithfully after the welfare of his congregation, and taking a keen interest in their mental, moral and spiritual development.

He has served as vice-president and treasurer of the Educational and Missionary Convention of South Carolina, and he has also served as moderator of his own Association.

He is now president of one of the best Sunday-school conventions in upper South Carolina, which place he has filled for over twenty years.

Mr. Allen is a wise and safe counsellor, whose advice is often sought, not only by many members of the race, but by many leading white citizens of his home city.

A visit to his churches will convince any one that the members have prospered both collectively and individually under the guidance of Mr. Allen.

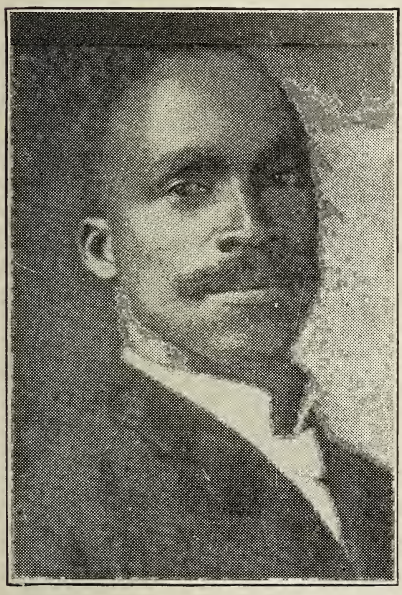
His work among the young persons of the State, his wisdom in conducting the affairs of the Sunday-school, betoken executive ability of an unusual order.

Mr. Allen believes that the spiritual uplift of the people should come before all else, and has kept that in view through the entire period of his ministry, which probably accounts for the remarkable success that has attended his efforts.

With no trace of the poseur, no effort to make an impression, just a man of the times, ready and willing at every call to duty, the Reverend J. O. Allen is considered by all who know him a valuable asset to the leadership of a race only fifty years from slavery.

## *HARDIN B. BRITT, A.B., A.M.*

*Valedictorian—One of the World's Greatest Gospel Singers—Baritone Soloist.*



There is quite a difference between vocal music and vocal noise. And many of the so-called singers are in reality persons with fair voices without cultivation. "The technique and development of the voice consist in how to increase its power and to extend its compass and capability of crescendo and diminuendo." Few are the singers who are willing, by years of study, to pass slowly up the ladder of fame, and train that with which God has endowed them.

Hardin B. Britt, son of Thomas and Julia Britt, born at Brownsville, Edmonson County, Kentucky, in 1871, is a man of music; and what is more, he has trained and cultivated his voice almost to perfection. He attended the common schools, then went to Louisville and worked his way through the State University, from which institution he received his degree of A.B. He wears the gold medal presented to him as valedic-

torian of his class. The degree of A.M. was conferred by Eckstein Norton University.

Professor Britt has held many important positions as chorister and soloist, and he is now the national and international gospel singer of the Baptist denomination, in which capacity he has been an agent in God's hand, winning many souls into the kingdom.

Under the caption, "A Sweet Colored Singer," the *Christian Herald,* London, England, July, 1905, said:

"Mr. H. B. Britt, B.A., the sweet singer of Louisville, Kentucky, U. S. A., was the leading soloist at the recent Baptist World's Congress, London. For six years past he has been traveling as a singing evangelist in the Eastern States of America, and he has sung before thousands of people in the leading cities of fifteen different States. His rich, sweet baritone voice has attracted the attention of the press in a number of places. In the great open-air demonstration of Hyde Park, London, in connection with the Baptist World's Congress, he sang several solos, 'Death Is Only a Dream' being the most effective. He also sang in the great meeting in Spurgeon's Tabernacle, conducted by the colored people. Mr. Britt and one or two colored ministers, after conducting services in London, expect to take part in a number of conventions and associations in Germany. They return to London (D. V.) on September 1st, and will then engage in holding services throughout Britain, or will return to America to be at the Colored Baptist National Convention, which meets on September 15th."

From the foregoing it will be seen that Professor Britt has acquired world fame as a singer. And he deserves all the encomiums that have been given him. His life, his talents, have been consecrated to the Lord, and he is a power in revival work. His well-trained voice has a peculiar melody that is more effective than many words in the winning of souls to Christ.

Professor Britt is a vocal artist who carries the gospel

into many lands and softens the heart of those who hear him, so that the admonitions of the ministers are not in vain. Music is an inspiration, and the sweet singer of Louisville is an instrument in God's hand for the accomplishment of great good.

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## *PROFESSOR J. T. BROWN, A.B., A.M., D.D.*

*Salutatorian—Valedictorian—Scholar—Author—Editorial Writer—Uncompromising Baptist.*

J. T. Brown, one of the most gifted of the classical writers of America, is the son of slave parents, Mary and Prince Brown, of Hilton Head, South Carolina. He was educated in the rudiments of the English language at Hampton Institute, graduating under the late General S. C. Armstrong, then president. He led his classes at Hampton, and did the same when he entered Lincoln University, Chester, Pennsylvania, where he took both the college and theological courses. He was first honor man throughout the seven years spent at Lincoln, and developed into a severe critic. He delivered the Latin salutatory upon grad-

uating from the college course and was chosen valedictorian of his class three years later when he received his theological degree, June, 1891.

Mr. Brown was called to ordination by the First Baptist Church, Fernandina, Florida, the Rev. M. W. Gilbert, D.D., and the Rev. J. Gardner Ross, D.D., being among the members of the ordaining council. He became associated with President Gilbert, of the Florida Baptist Institute, and succeeded the latter as president when the school was removed to Jacksonville and became the Florida Baptist Academy in 1892. He was called from Florida to Montgomery, Alabama, where he pastored one of the largest churches in that State. From Alabama Mr. Brown was called to Texas, where he spent fourteen years as a teacher in what he called "a theological school on wheels." Doctor Brown's sermons and his addresses are masterpieces of modern composition and eloquence:

> "His eloquence is classic in its style;
> Not brilliant with explosive coruscations
> Of heterogeneous thoughts at random caught
> And scattered like a shower of shooting-stars."

The Doctor is the author of several valuable theological works, which have received wide circulation. Among them "Theological Kernels," "The Cherubim," and "Seven Things Satan Has Taught the Baptist Churches" are the most important.

One of the chief characteristics for which Dr. Brown is distinguished is his absolute devotion to the princples of the Baptist denomination. As moderator of the Florida East Coast Association and pastor of the Baptist Church at Miami, Florida, he has indoctrinated the people and raised the standard and efficiency of the ministry. The editorials of Doctor Brown are gems of thought and give to our Sunday-school literature in which they appear a fine polish.

The Reverend Mr. Brown owns considerable property in Texas, and has been the means of influencing his people to make great progress along material as well as religious and educational lines.

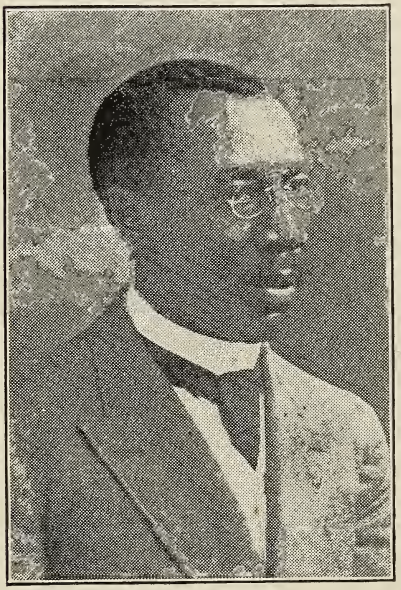
The pen is a mighty weapon for the advancement of any race, and Doctor Brown is filling a most important place when he uses his brains and his pen to expound religious truths and instruct his people in those things with which the man of the future must be conversant, if he would keep abreast of the times.

Dr. Brown has a charming wife and one son.

## *REVEREND GEORGE WASHINGTON GOODE, D.D.*

*Institute President—Talented Minister—Philanthropist—Denominational Worker.*

The Reverend George Washington Goode, the son of Henderson and Julia Goode, was born in Patrick County, Virginia, March 14, 1865.



After completing the high school course of Marion, Virginia, he taught in the public schools for seven consecutive terms. In 1886 he became a Christian and realized a call to the ministry. The following year he was licensed to preach.

In 1889 he entered the Richmond Theological Seminary, Richmond, Virginia, and in three years he finished the institute course. At the end of three years more he graduated from the Theological Department with the degree of Bachelor of Divinity. While studying theology he also filled the pastorate of Salem Baptist Church, West Point, Virginia, and Mount Zion Baptist Church, Churchview, Virginia. In 1896 he was called to Calvary Baptist Church, Danville, Virginia. He is now

in the seventeenth year of his work at that place. During his labors more than twelve hundred people have acknowledged Christ.

Dr. Goode was married, in 1896, to Miss Mary L. Gaines, of Richmond, Virginia. Mrs. Goode is a graduate of the Normal School of that city, and has been a teacher for seven years.

In 1901 Central College, Mississippi, conferred upon him the degree of D.D.

In 1903, at the solicitation of the people of the city of Danville, he founded the Pittsylvania Industrial Academy, now the Pittsylvania Normal and Collegiate Institute, with full college powers. The school has an enviable record, and affiliates with the famous Union University of Richmond.

In 1905 he was chosen president of the General Association of Virginia, which position he held with honor for seven years, resigning of his own accord over the vigorous protest of the entire membership. His resignation was twice rejected, but when he pleaded over-work and ill health, the resignation was reluctantly accepted. Dr. Goode now wears one of the finest gold badges ever given a presiding officer on retiring. Through his ceaseless efforts and by means of his organizing ability the General Association and its auxiliary bodies have become quite powerful. He is prominently connected with all the interests of the denomination and with the educational undertakings of the Church. His appointment by the Governor as a delegate to Denver, Colorado, in 1911, evidences the fact that Dr. Goode's talents and sterling qualities are appreciated by all, irrespective of color.

He is positive, fearless, yet cautious and kind. Many young men and women have been helped by his strong Christian example and instruction.

Dr. Goode's generosity—his willingness to aid any worthy object—has endeared him to the people. He is now supporting an African student in school. Despite his philanthropy, he has managed to save something. He owns a fine ten-

room residence in a popular portion of Danville, and a valuable farm of about one hundred acres, with a neat five-room cottage, and other buildings for tenants. He also owns some fine live stock.

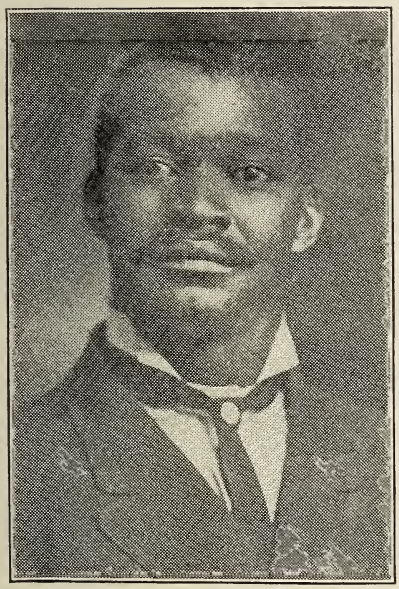
Dr. Goode has served as member of the Foreign Mission Board of Lot Carey Convention, and as a member of the Executive Board of the State Sunday-School Convention; also as treasurer of the State B. Y. P. U.

He is one of the foremost men of the denomination and can point to a long list of charities and a vast amount of telling work for the advancement of the race.

## *REVEREND ULYSSES SIMPSON KEELING, B.Th.*

*Secretary—Minister—Writer—Editor.*

The Reverend Ulysses Simpson Keeling comes of a sturdy Christian family. He was born near Jewett, Leon County, Texas, October 7th, 1881. His father, B. J. Keeling, was a prominent member of Mount Olive Baptist Church of Jewett, from which the son received his license to preach. The mother, A. A. Keeling, was a great missionary worker—a charter member of the first women's society organized in Leon County. She was a successful teacher of twenty-five years' standing and organized several religious societies which were a power for good in the locality. And the distinction achieved by her talented son is traceable to the influence of this pious, devoted mother.



In 1900 the subject of this sketch was called to the ministry, and in 1904 he entered the pastorate, in which he is distinguished for earnestness and devotion. He is considered a most excellent preacher, and Texas honors him because of his sterling qualities and ability as a pastor and an organizer of

men. He is at present secretary of the Texas Baptist Ministers' Conference Auxiliary to the Baptist Missionary and Educational Convention of Texas; president of the Old Landmark District B. Y. P. U. Convention; vice-president of the Old Landmark District Sunday-School Convention, and member of the Executive Board of the Texas Baptist Foreign Mission Convention.

Mr. Keeling was married on July 29th, 1908, to Miss Myrtle A. Knight, of Belton, Texas, and Mrs. Keeling is a constant source of help to her husband in his ministerial labors. The union has been blessed with one child, U. S. Keeling, Jr.

Mr. Keeling is at present the pastor of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, at Bryan, Texas, and has the honor of preaching in one of the handsomest edifices in the State. His congregation is a flourishing one, in which there is a high degree of intelligence.

Mr. Keeling was educated at Guadalupe and Central colleges. He received the degree of Th.B. at Central College, Waco, May 25th, 1911. He has excellent oratorical ability and has been elected State grand lecturer of the Order of United Friendship, Silver Fleece and Leaf, a fraternal order of high standing.

In 1903 he became editor of the *Texas Watchman,* in which capacity he has exhibited great ability as a writer and thinker.

## *MRS. L. J. McNORTON.*

*Prominent Woman Educator—Missionary Worker.*

Mrs. L. J. McNorton was born and reared to womanhood in the city of Clarksville, Texas. Her father, Wynn Bowers, was an exceedingly prosperous farmer and trader. When the Honorable Edmond J. Davis was Governor of Texas, Mr. Bowers was on the State police force, where he won distinction as a brave and attentive officer. Mr. Bowers died in 1893.

Mrs. McNorton was educated in the city schools of Clarksville, and at Wyley University, in Marshall, Texas. She taught school in her home city, and afterward took a course in millinery and dressmaking in Chicago, Illinois, and St. Louis, Missouri. She then opened a school of millinery and dressmaking in Clarksville, from which many young women have gone forth prepared to lead useful as well as profitable lives.

Opening a millinery store, she was the first colored woman to visit the large wholesale houses in St. Louis and Chicago. Her store was twice burned out and she decided to locate in

Fort Worth, where she still carries on a school and business of large proportions.

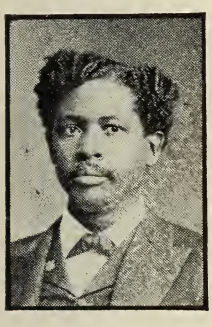
Mrs. McNorton is a most enterprising woman and has done great service to the race by teaching a valuable trade. She is now corresponding secretary for the Women's Convention Auxiliary to the Baptist Missionary and Educational Convention of Texas, treasurer of the women's department of the Northwestern Baptist Association, and president of one of the largest and most successful missionary societies in the State.

She is deeply interested in the educational advancement of the people and is doing her utmost to bring about needed reforms and to fit women for lucrative positions in the world, that they may be elevated to an independent plane.

## *REVEREND CHARLES BENJAMIN WILLIAM GORDON, D.D.*

*Poet—Orator—Journalist—Representative Citizen—Benefactor of the Race—Devoted Minister.*

The prophecy of the old settlers, that Charles Benjamin Gordon would some day be heard in the literary world, was well founded.



He was born in Colerain, North Carolina, on November 1, 1861, to Daniel and Nancy Gordon, the descendants of Charles Brown Holly, a brave soldier of the Revolutionary War, whose courage and sterling qualities won him his freedom at the close of the great struggle for the liberty of the Colonies. His daughter was a woman of such eminent virtue that rather than depart from the moral law, she submitted to separation from her husband and child and was sold into another State.

The country was passing through the critical period of its history when Charles was born; the patriotism of the Negroes was fully aroused by the endeavors of the Government to make the Republic in truth the land of the free. Those who come into the world during epochs of great moment seem to be gifted with extraordinary powers, and Charles was not an exception to the rule. He displayed marked talent when only five years of age, at which time he entered the school of Thomas Nixon, on Roanoke Island, Virginia, where he became the acknowledged genius of the institution. Making a speech be-

fore the school on one Friday afternoon, the young student surprised both teacher and pupils by his oratorical skill, and that without previous training. He proved the truth of the doctrine that geniuses are born, not made. Under many difficulties was his education continued after the removal of the family to Perquimans County. He worked during the day and studied in the evening, often remaining up until the morning hours, when he again went forth to hard labor. While a pupil at night school he became a member of a debating society, in which he distinguished himself in repartee.

In 1879 he obtained a position as teacher at Brick Kiln, Pasquotank County, North Carolina, and in the same year he sought and found the Savior. Soon after that he was elected principal of the public school at Windsor, North Carolina, and one year later he entered Richmond Theological Seminary, where he gained the admiration and respect of those with whom he came in contact for his excellence of character and rapid progress in the studies of the course. Vacations were spent mainly in hard work as an evangelist.

In 1884 Dr. Gordon received a call to Mount Calvary Baptist Church, Richmond, Virginia, and at the same time to the large First Baptist Church of Petersburg. Dr. Gordon felt that God's hand was in the matter; that if one is really ordained of God, he cannot fail; that often success is evidence that a minister is truly called of God. The position was a difficult one. The young pastor was surrounded by the literary talent of the city—by the most severe critics. To reach their hearts he must needs be endowed with high intellect and great magnetism; he must be almost above temptation. Dr. Gordon, although youthful and practically inexperienced, proved worthy of the great trust. The history of his pastorate is an account of one triumph after another. And the fact that he has remained in the pastorate at Petersburg shows that he is the right man for the place.

As a preacher Dr. Gordon has a persuasive quality that has wonderful effect upon his congregation. He does not at-

tempt to force people into the right path; he wins them, using intelligent argument.

As a student he is brilliant, having completed his education at the Theological Seminary, now a part of Union University, Richmond, Virginia.

Dr. Gordon's poetical ability has long been appreciated. His book, "The Good Shepherd," has been favorably commented upon by the best critics.

Unstinted praise has been accorded him as a public speaker, and in addition to his other good characteristics, Dr. Gordon has shown himself to be unselfish, using his power not for his own enrichment, but for the benefit of the race. Eloquently he has depicted the struggles of the Negro with poverty, prejudice and injustice. Clearly he has pointed out that the colored people are not as a race indolent and worthless, but that they have proved themselves to be industrious, loyal citizens, making great advancement in the brief period that has elapsed since emancipation.

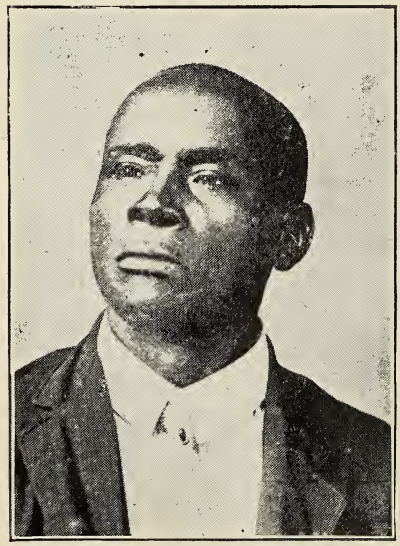
Since 1886 Dr. Gordon has been editor of the *National Pilot,* which is a potent influence in racial and denominational reforms. The distinguished editor is also the founder of the American Institute and the National Orphans' Home, and he has been president of the National Orphan and Educational Association since 1891. His book, "Select Sermons," gives evidence of high attainments and its enormous sales have attested its popularity. May Doctor Gordon have many more years of usefulness and his memory ever be cherished long after he is no more.

Mrs. Maggie W. Gordon is a pleasing writer and is widely known as a reformer and leader, and, like her devoted husband, continues to grow in the hearts of her people.

## *REVEREND J. W. STEWART.*

*Able Preacher—Pioneer Missionary—Property-Owner.*

Many are the citizens who followed Greeley's advice to make it westward may now boast of happiness and prosperity. And notably among them is the Reverend J. W. Stewart, who first saw the light of day at Flat Rock, South Carolina, in 1856. He was converted in 1868, and in 1870 felt that he was called upon to enter the ministry, and thereafter he so ordered his life that when the time for ordination came—in 1875—he was fully prepared for the duties which devolve upon those who undertake pastoral work. Forty years ago the labors of a minister were much more arduous in many respects than they are now, despite our growing civilization and needs. In the early days there were few of the conveniences that are now accounted necessities. It was a much more difficult task to raise money than it is at the present time. But there were souls to be saved, and Mr. Stewart did not spare his strength. He willingly gave of the best that was in him



to the cause of Christ, and as a result he has received into the Church—in the aggregate—more than six thousand persons, two thousand of whom he baptized.

Mr. Stewart removed to Watonga, Oklahoma, in 1903, and served as pastor of Mount Olive and Rising Sun churches, after which he became a missionary of the western half of Oklahoma, and was employed jointly by the Oklahoma Baptist Convention and by the Home Mission Board of the National Baptist Convention.

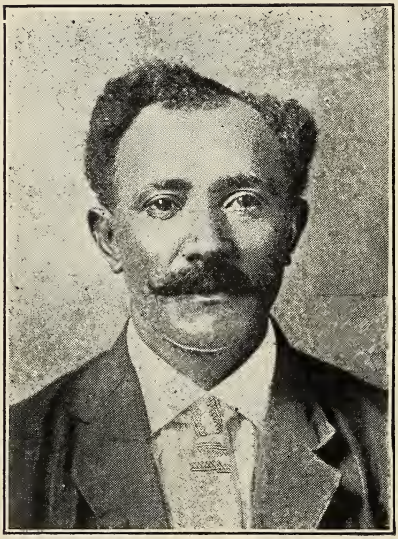
By dint of hard work and economy Mr. Stewart has acquired much property, and his declining years will doubtless be spent in comfort, if not in luxury. And he has earned, by long and faithful service, the right to take his ease.

Mr. Stewart is loved and respected as only a pioneer minister who has labored long and earnestly can be loved and honored. His experience and wisdom are a constant source of satisfaction to his congregation.

## *REVEREND J. F. KERSH, D.D.*

*Excellent Preacher—Successful Pastor.*

The "Razor-back" State has furnished many great men to the denomination. And the elements of success, such as faith and perseverance, were innate and irresistibly led them on to a life of usefulness among men. Such is true of J. F. Kersh, born in the State of Arkansas, on the 14th day of November, 1866, to the Reverend T. R. and Amy Kersh. From the time of his birth he was surrounded by religious influences; thus it was only natural that he should eventually enter the ministry, having felt the divine call.



He was educated at Branch Normal College, Pine Bluff, Arkansas; received the degree of Doctor of Divinity from Conroe College, Conroe, Texas, many years later.

His conversion took place in 1889, and in 1890 he began his pastoral labors in his native town, Varna, Arkansas.

Dr. Kersh served as justice of the peace in Arkansas, in

the year 1890. He was married in 1896, and two children were born to the union.

Dr. Kersh has officiated as secretary of the State Baptist Convention of Oklahoma, and for the past six years has been pastor of the Macedonia Baptist Church of Muskogee, Oklahoma, where he is regarded with the highest affection by his congregation. His eloquence and forcefulness as a speaker have done much to make his preaching effective, and the church has prospered under his charge.

Dr. Kersh is alive to the needs of the race in the great Southwest, and he has accomplished much that makes for the uplift of humanity. His kindness and sympathetic qualities have held the members of his church to him through the many vicissitudes that are inevitable in any religious organization, and he is regarded as a fixture, so greatly is he venerated by his people.

## *MRS. MINNIE VIRGINIA MAXEY.*

*Excellent Teacher—Strong Personality—Secretary of State Convention of Women.*

Institutions of learning, from the common schools to the universities, are essential to the translation of man from deep darkness to light. Whatever agencies of civilization are necessary for the uplift of other races are equally needful for the advancement of the colored race. And it has been the effort of Mrs. Maxey's life to impress this fact upon all who have come within the circle of her influence.

Minnie Virginia Maxey was born at Branchville, Milan County, Texas, on June 15th, 1869, to Edmund and Joyce Stamps. She attended Central Tennessee College, Nashville, Tennessee, and from that institution she went to Central Texas College, from which she graduated with honors, being the valedictorian of her class.

Her conversion took place in 1879, and from that time forth she has led a devoted Christion life, setting an example of patience and earnestness to her pupils.

In 1900 she was married to Henry Maxey, to whom she has been a faithful and loving wife.

The early promise of unusual mental power shown by Mrs. Maxey has not failed of fulfillment, and her career as a teacher in the High School of Waco, Texas, has been a brilliant and interesting one. She has been able to do that exceedingly difficult thing, arouse an enthusiasm in an overwhelming majority of her pupils. It is not often that general enthusiasm can be maintained where there is so great a diversity of life and ideas, but Mrs. Maxey seems to be an inspira-

tion to those with whom she comes in contact. She always keeps her Christian duties in mind, and teaches religion and morals, as well as the ordinary branches of learning expected in the public schools.

Mrs. Maxey is the recording secretary of the General Baptist Convention of the women of Texas, in which capacity she has given full satisfaction, and extended her influence for good.

Her noble work in the uplift of fallen boys and girls has been eminently successful. She has snatched many a brand from the burning, and started many a young man and woman on the way to lives of usefulness and high achievement.

Mrs. Maxey is regarded as one of the representative women of the Baptist denomination, who believes in the fiat, "Let there be light."

## *REVEREND SAMUEL A. MOSELY, D.D.*

*Superintendent of Missions—Pastor of Great Church—Secretary of Board of Trustees of Arkansas College.*

The Reverend Samuel A. Mosely was born of humble parents in Franklin, Tennessee, in 1858. His early childhood was spent in the public schools at Helena, Arkansas, after which he was a student at South Land College for seven years, and at the Arkansas Baptist College for two years, receiving the degree of A.B. He was converted in 1874, under the preaching of the Reverend Harrison, in Phillips County, Arkansas. Having been ordained to the ministry in 1878, his first pastorate was Mount Olive Baptist Church at Marvel, Arkansas. While in charge of this congregation, he was also employed in teaching in the public schools. He was principal of the High School at Newport, Arkansas, for ten years.

Dr. Mosely organized and built several churches, among them the Grace Temple Baptist at Pine Bluff, Arkansas, which was at the time the finest brick church in the State. It cost $30,000.

Reverend Mosely was superintendent of State missions under the Southern White Board and of the National Baptist Publishing Board for one year; also vice-president of the National Baptist Convention for seventeen years and secretary of the Board of Trustees of the Arkansas Baptist College for fourteen years.

He has educated two daughters who are engaged in teaching. His first wife died and he married Miss Alpha O. Clemens, of Birmingham, Alabama, who has been a faithful coworker in his field of labor.

Reverend Mosely is still pastor of Grace Temple Baptist Church at Pine Bluff. There are many influential members in the congregation and much good has been accomplished. The people have learned to confide their troubles to him and he has counseled them wisely and conscientiously. They have benefited both individually and collectively under his careful guidance. Dr. Mosely is a man of wide experience and takes a lively interest in every movement looking towards the improvement of the people. He is a strong minister, working for a noble cause.

## *REVEREND B. J. F. WESTBROOK, D.D.*

*Successful Minister and Financier—A Bible Student—Corresponding Secretary of Inter-State Press Association.*

The Reverend B. J. F. Westbrook was born on a plantation near Bryan, Burleson County, Texas, in 1879, to Moses and Lucinda Westbrook. He was educated in the common schools of McClellan County, Texas, and at Paul Quinn and Central Texas Colleges. He studied theology under Dr. J. T. Brown, of Central Texas College.

At seventeen years of age, in 1896, Dr. Westbrook was converted. He was licensed to preach in 1898, and ordained and called to the pastorate of Macedonia Church, Hubbard City, Texas, in 1891. He has officiated as pastor of New Hope Baptist Church, Texas, and of Mount Pleasant and Calvary Baptist churches in Oklahoma. He still has charge of the latter at Oklahoma City. The congregation numbers more than one thousand persons and more than three thouand persons have been added to the membership of the Baptist churches by him during his ministerial career.

Dr. Westbrook is well provided for with this world's

goods, and he is interested in the promotion of both the spiritual and financial welfare of his people.

He is a member of the Foreign Mission Board and of the National Baptist Convention, corresponding secretary of the Foreign Mission Convention of Oklahoma, and corresponding secretary of the Inter-State Press Association of Denominational Editors of National Baptist Convention. He was for five years president of the Oklahoma State Sunday-School Convention.

Dr. Westbrook is a Greek, Latin and Hebrew student of no mean ability, and he is anxious to extend educational advantages to a greater number of the young people of the race, as well as to fit them for the practical affairs of every-day life along ordinary lines. He is an enthusiast in regard to the development of the Afro-American race, and is full of energy and earnestness in whatever he undertakes. Through his influence there has been marked improvement in the condition and standards of the youth of his church. As corresponding secretary of the Denominational Press Association, he is ever in touch with every department of the work, and occupying as he does that responsible position, he has become a commanding figure in the world's largest religious body of the race to which he belongs.

## *WILLIAM HENRY MOSES, B.D., D.D.*

*Farmer and Rail-Splitter—Pastor—Evangelist—Sensational Orator—Author of the Life of Christ—A Man in a Class by Himself.*

Some characters are so pre-eminently great in their special fields of endeavor that the watchful public natudally turns to their ancestry for the discovery of the sinews leading to their elements of greatness.

William Henry Moses, one of the leading pastors and writers of the denomination, has had such a thrilling career during the many years of his public service that it is difficult to produce a pen-portrait commensurate with his original endeavors. He was born in Charlotte County, Virginia, December 31, 1872, to Thomas and Sarah Moses. William was the eldest of four brothers and comes from a very religious stock.

Mr. Moses was reared by Richard Morton, his grandfather, who was the largest and leading land-owner of Charlotte County. Being the favorite of his grandfather, he was allowed a liberal use of his extensive library, and the boy rapidly advanced while farming.

At the early age of fourteen Mr. Moses was performing the difficult task of plowing with two horses; and at fifteen he

was able to chop as much wood, maul as many rails and cut as much grain as the average man in his prime. During the same year he made a profession of religion and joined the Morrison Grove Baptist Church, Charlotte Court House. So careful and painstaking was Mr. Moses that at seventeen he was made overseer of all hands on his grandfather's plantation and received for the same enough money to enable him to enter college.

By hard study Mr. Moses was able to enter the Virginia Seminary and College at twenty, and by the timely assistance of President Gregory W. Hayes, to whom he attributed much of his success, remained until he graduated, carrying off the honors of his class four years later. And so thoroughly and consistently has he imbibed the spirit of Professor Hayes that he has been for years considered the ablest graduate that scholar ever turned out.

So great was the impression made by Mr. Moses that he was called to the Mount Zion Baptist Church, Staunton, Virginia, one month before he graduated. For that old aristocratic congregation he built during his ten years' pastorate a $30,000 house of worship and a fine parsonage. He was called to the pastorate of the Metropolitan Baptist Church of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, which he reluctantly accepted; and from which he was soon called to be field secretary for the Foreign Misssion Board at Louisville, Kentucky. As a mission worker, Dr. Moses is said to have excelled any man in the denomination; and the amount of money collected for missions in the States he visited was larger by far than the combined collections of all missionaries in the same district employed for the same length of time during the previous year.

Aside from his pastoral and missionary efforts, Dr. Moses has occupied, among other high positions, the office of corresponding secretary of the Virginia Baptist State Convention; editor of the *Baptist Statesman;* trustee of Virginia Seminary and College, of Morris College, Sumter, South Carolina, and of Nelson Merry College, Jefferson City, Tennessee. For a short time he was pastor of the First Baptist Church of New-

berry, South Carolina, and is at present pastor of the First Baptist Church at Knoxville, the leading congregation in West Tennessee. He succeeded Doctor M. W. Gilbert, now president of Selma (Alabama) University.

Perhaps the most difficult task of Mr. Moses' brilliant career is his latest production, "The Life of Christ," just issued from the press. It is an excellent book, well written, and shows the depth and magnitude of the writer's scholarship and knowledge of the sayings and doings of our Saviour. Other literary productions are "The Negro Baptist Church," "Sanctification" and "A Young Man's Vision."

He is a prolific writer, a hard student, a strong debater and an eloquent preacher and pastor. His manner is peculiarly his own, and in his sensational flights of oratory, mingled with mirth, then sarcasm, charged with the dynamic force of his own convictions, he is apt to make his opponent feel the force of his logic as he sweeps his audience along with him.

Doctor Moses is married, and Mrs. Moses, cultured and matured in judgment, strong and striking in personality, congenial to a fault, active in all departments of church and social affairs, is leading a life of usefulness that makes her a worthy companion of her distinguished husband.

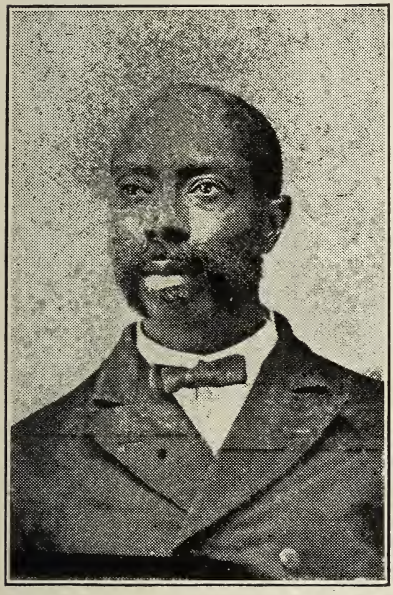
The Reverend Doctor Moses is a man of much wealth; but he uses it freely in the interest of humanity. He is a willing contributor to all denominational purposes, and his church, following his example, gives freely and largely to every phase of Christian service.

Because of his literary attainments, deep piety and experience in things divine, his Alma Mater conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Divinity, May, 1907. And the National Baptist Convention with which he has long been identified, looks upon him as one of her very able members, whose thundering voice has electrified her upon many a public occasion. Being in the prime of life, full of fire, ambition and determination, his usefulness will increase as he reaches the zenith of his greatness.

## *REVEREND WILLIAM FRANKLIN LOVELACE, D.D.*

*Indefatigable Worker—Unselfish Christian—Devoted Son—Influential Pastor—Beloved Teacher and Leader of the People.*

The Reverend William Franklin Lovelace was born on September 26, 1862, in Lauderdale County, Tennessee, to Daniel and Susan Lovelace, who placed their son, the eldest of several children, in the country schools as soon as possible and kept him there as long as their means would allow. The mother had taught the child to read the Bible, and he showed signs of an unusually bright intellect.



Through his mother's influence and that of the Sunday-school, he learned to love his Savior, and in his fourteenth year he yielded to the sacred truths of Scripture and embraced a hope in Christ. It was not uncommon for him to carry his Bible in his pocket to the field and read it at intervals. When he was made a teacher in the Sabbath-school, in recognition of his bright mind, he felt the need of an education that he might do more for himself and the race.

At this period his parents could do nothing further for him, as they had younger children to support. Then the temptation to go out from home and advance his own interests, without offering to assist in the maintenance of brothers and sisters, assailed him. But his unselfish nature predominated and he contented himself to remain with his parents, helping them to the extent of his means and studying on rainy days and by firelight when there was no oil.

In 1883 he was called to the ministry, and two years later reluctantly accepted his first pastorate, and was ordained during the college vacation. The church had about thirty members and no house of worship. But within three years, through the indefatigable work of Dr. Lovelace, the congregation had increased one hundred, and a comfortable building in which to hold its services had been provided.

In 1887 he became the pastor of the First Church of Wynne, Arkansas, a new organization with only seven members. At this time the young man's courage was put to the test: churches were calling for him, his time was needed in school, and more embarrassing than all, he had not a cent to pay expenses.

The previous years in which he had attended Roger Williams University, Nashville, Tennessee, had swept from him all of his limited means, but his resolution, his fortitude, shrewdness and courage remained, and his excellent judgment and promptness of action had won the confidence of Dr. D. W. Phillips, president of that institution; therefore, in 1887, help was obtained for him and he graduated with honors.

His career as an educator has been eminently successful. In 1888 he was elected principal of the public school at Wynne, which position he held until 1894. In 1896 he became principal of the schools of Stuttgart, Arkansas, where he labored faithfully until called to his former position at Wynne.

He founded the Wynne Normal and Industrial Institute and operated it until it passed into the control of the North

Arkansas Baptist District Association. He is now its efficient secretary.

No sooner had Dr. Lovelace completed his college course than he placed his brother Ezekiel in school, and later he educated a sister.

In March, 1900, he married Miss Mary H. Fisher, a belle of the old Tennessee stock. Then he purchased a home and started afresh to work for humanity. The degree of D.D. was conferred upon him by Guadalupe College.

Dr. Lovelace has distinguished himself as editor-in-chief of the *Baptist Vanguard,* the State denominational paper, as assistant county examiner of teachers, and as principal of the Wynne Normal and Industrial Institute. His popularity as pastor is evidenced by the words of one of his members upon a notable occasion:

"We will call him by the name more daring than Luther, more illustrous than Morris; we will call him the founder, shepherd and ever-constant preserver of Wynne's First Baptist Church, our own beloved Lovelace. Long may he live, and may his works bring forth boundless harvest now and throughout all eternity."

## *MRS. ANNIE EULA WILKINS.*

*Preceptress—Church Worker—Secretary Woman's State Convention.*

North Carolina is distinguished not only for great men, but for great women also.

Mrs. Annie Eula Wilkins was born February 5th, 1864, in Middleburg, Warren County, North Carolina. Her parents were Reverend and Mrs. John M. Paschall, who were blessed with eleven children.

At the age of six she entered the Mount Pleasant public school, of which her father, an ex-senator of North Carolina, was teacher.

She spent five years at Shaw University, Raleigh, North Carolina, where she early developed a strong missionary spirit and a desire to work for the Lord. Her congenial nature, coupled with the exercise of rare attainments, endeared her to her superiors. It was not long before she led her classes and became an interesting study for the school.

In August, 1880, she professed a hope in Christ, united

with the Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, was baptized by the Reverend O. Bullock, and at once was appointed teacher in the Sunday-school, serving her church well.

She was elected teacher in the public schools at Smithfield, Johnson County, North Carolina, which position she held for five years.

In June, 1884, she was married to the Reverend Fredricum Hillonious Wilkins, of Raleigh, North Carolina, who was principal of the Washington Graded School of Raleigh; also pastor of the White Rock Baptist Church of Durham, North Carolina. One child, a daughter, Johanna, was born to bless the union.

Mr. Wilkins was called to the pastorate of the First Baptist Church, Springfield, Missouri, and the couple gave up home and friends to accept. Both Mr. and Mrs. Wilkins felt that the Lord had important work for them. After laboring faithfully for five years in Missouri, with excellent results, they went to Texas, to the Bethesda Baptist Church at Marshall, where they remained for eight years. Mrs. Wilkins was ever at her post of duty in the Sunday-school, the missionary society and in other auxiliaries of the church, ready to give a helping hand at all times.

She was appointed by the American Baptist Home Mission Society as industrial teacher in Bishop College, Marshall, Texas, where she served not quite four years, resigning to accompany her husband to his new field of labor at Austin, Texas.

In October, 1900, she was elected teacher in Hearne Academy, where she was employed for three years as matron, preceptress and teacher, going from that institution to Houston, Texas, to fill a similar position in Houston College.

For the past seven years Mrs. Wilkins has given special attention to the dressmaking and millinery art for the school. She is a graduate of several schools of millinery and dressmaking.

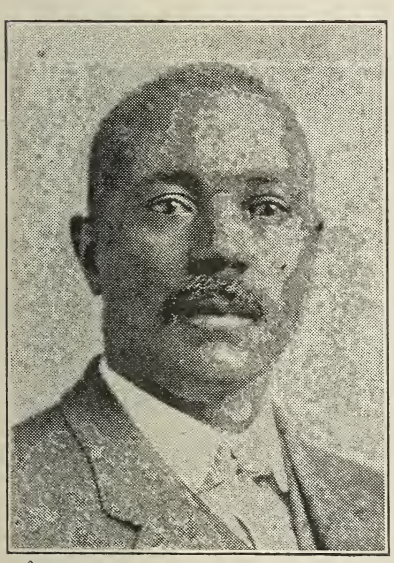
As secretary of the Women's Auxiliary to the Missionary

and Educational Convention of Texas she has accomplished much good. Many thousands of dollars have been collected and paid to the different missionary objects since she has been identified with this great Christian body. Mrs. Wilkins' pleasant disposition, yet firm and alert, quick to grasp and recognize the manly and womanly qualities of those for whom she so faithfully labors, enables her from year to year to execute any plan she may foster for the good of her constituents.

## *PROFESSOR M. M. RODGERS.*

*Educator—Successful Politician — Business Man — Secretary State Convention—National Baptist Convention Figure.*

Some men are behind the times; while there are others ahead of the times; then too there are many right along with the times. It is to this latter class belongs the subject now claiming our attention. His mind is ever opened to light and old-time dogmas are feasible to him only as they apply to the greater enlightenment of the present.



Mack Matthew Rodgers first saw the light of day July 13th, 1849, in Wharton County, Texas, where he grew to manhood. He is the only surviving child of Stephen and Lucinda Rodgers.

In 1878 he married Miss Caroline Jackson, and of the union were born five daughters and two sons.

In the fall of 1878 Mr. Rodgers removed to Fayette County, graduating in 1881, with honors, from the Prairie View State Normal School. In 1887, having located at La Grange, he was elected principal of the city school. His career as a teacher had commenced at the age of sixteen.

Mr. Rodgers became interested in politics, and for three successive terms—twice from his ward and once from the city at large—he was elected alderman of the city of La Grange.

His political service and reputation soon extended over the State, and he was elected in 1888, 1892, 1896, 1900, 1904 and 1912, to the National Republican Convention. In 1897 he resigned the position of principal of the La Grange city school to accept the appointment, under Collector Webster Flanagan, of deputy collector of internal revenue for the Third District of Texas. He was the first Negro in Texas to hold such an office.

Mr. Rodgers is regarded as a good business man, a deep thinker, a close writer, a fearless but conservative debater, a sane and safe leader and a smooth but reliable politician. It is because of his manly qualities that he is recognized and respected by the people of his State.

He accepted Christ in 1879 and was baptized by Elder James Davenport. In religion, as in politics, he became active and manifested a lively interest in the work of the Church and in the development of denominational principles. In 1883 he was made secretary of the La Grange Baptist Association—a position which he still holds—and in 1889 he became secretary of the Baptist Missionary and Educational Convention of Texas. To both organizations he has given his best thought and energies. For the last eighteen years he has striven to systematize the business and improve the financial status of the Convention and of its institutions of learning. To him, more than to any other one person, credit should be given for incorporating the Convention. Its present healthy condition and splendid school regulations are also due to his efforts.

Mr. Rodgers is giving much attention to the affairs of the National Baptist Convention, and his opinions are attracting the attention not only of that body, but of a host of Baptists throughout the country.

## *SAMUEL NATHANIEL VASS, A.B., A.M., D.D.*

*Boy School-Teacher—University Professor—Superintendent of Colored Work for the American Baptist Publication Society—Noted Biblicist and Lecturer.*

One of the brainiest men that the old "Tar-heel" State has ever produced is the subject of this sketch, born May 22, 1866, at Raleigh. His mother, Anna Victoria Vass, was a slave; while his father was one of the most prominent white men of Raleigh, formerly master to his mother.

Young Vass experienced a great love for God at a very early age and united with the Baptist Church. He was a brilliant youth and graduated from the St. Augustine Normal and Collegiate Institute at the age of seventeen, and from the College Course of Shaw University at nineteen, carrying off the class honors, May, 1885. Mr. Vass began his career as a public school-teacher at the age of fourteen. This was done during the summer months, while during the fall and winter he applied himself to study in the University. He was appointed a teacher at Shaw during his senior year

and was elected permanently upon receiving his A.B. degree; and for nine years he continued to teach at Shaw, holding the chair of Latin and Greek; and giving perfect satisfaction to the University management.

Professor Vass was married to Miss Mary Eliza Haywood, an accomplished young woman, at the age of eighteen, and to the union six lovely children have been born, two of whom are living—Dr. Rufus Vass, a successful physician, of Raleigh, N. C., and Mrs. Lillian Vass-Bass.

At the age of twenty-one the young educator was ordained to the ministry after sustaining a most difficult examination before a board of prominent white and colored ministers in the city of Raleigh.

In 1892 Mr. Vass was appointed district Sunday-school missionary for Virginia, District of Columbia and Maryland by the American Baptist Publication Society; and so acceptably did he fill the position that within a short time the Society made him general superintendent of all Sunday-school work done by that body among Negroes. For twenty-one years Doctor Vass has held that important position, lecturing, holding Bible institutes and preaching as occasion presented itself. He has specialized in Bible work, and his lectures with the aid of charts and maps drawn by himself are intensely interesting, and the demands made upon his time by pastors and others interested in Bible research are greater than he can fill. Being thoroughly conversant with Greek and Latin and having a working knowledge of Hebrew, and with twenty-one years' experience, he is accepted as one of the most profound Bible students in the country.

Doctor Vass has a unique and unusual individuality, and he does a kind of work that can only be done by a born teacher and leader.

This distinguished archæologist and Biblicist has steadfastly refused to put his lectures into book form, feeling that such a book should be written later on in his life. He is the author, however, of many pamphlets of great value, among

them "Consecration," "The Divine Message of the Hour," and "The Progress of the Negro." His lecture "The Origin and Early History of the Negro Race" is one of the most scholarly and profound productions ever given on the subject.

Professor Vass is an active member of the North Carolina Baptist State Convention, of the Lott Carey Foreign Mission Convention, and of the New England Baptist Convention. He is also a member of the National Baptist Convention and takes a lively interest in every phase of the work of each. For years he was statistician of the latter.

It was said of Peter the Great of Russia that by a rare combination of character and endowment he did for the barbarous hordes of northern Europe the work of centuries in one short lifetime. So it may be said of Mr. Vass, that by a happy combination of character, learning, common sense, patience, faithful endeavor and a magnetic personality, with the country as a field, a race as an audience and the Bible as a text, he has done more during his public service to arouse interest in the study of the Bible than any other Biblicist of the race.

## *MISS NANNIE HELEN BURROUGHS, A.M.*

*Corresponding Secretary of the Woman's National Convention—President and Founder Woman's Training School — Founder Douglass Improvement Company — Gifted Orator and Leader.*

Fame is accused of being a fickle jade, who bestows favors sometimes by lucky chance through adventitious circumstances, but more frequently she is coy and needs to be wooed with ardent persistence and demonstrations of unquestioned merit. While she has been very liberal toward the subject of our sketch, her favors have been well earned in the field of faithful endeavor, by persistent struggle, tact and diplomacy.

Miss Nannie Helen Burroughs was born at Culpepper, Virginia, May 2, 1878, to John and Jennie Burroughs, descendants from a sturdy line of carpenters and housemaids, noted in slavery days for their ability to do things better than the ordinary "hands." While an infant Nannie was taken to Washington, D. C., where she was reared and educated. And

her mother, refined and saintly, delights in the achievements of her noted daughter up the ladder of Fame.

After completing the prescribed course of the grammar school, Miss Burroughs was promoted to the high school, thence to the normal, graduating from each with honors; this was followed by a course in a business college in Washington, D. C.

Miss Burroughs organized the first Girls' Literary Society of the Washington High School. She is well read and has pursued a post-graduate course in English for several years. Her contributions to leading newspapers and journals are widely appreciated. The degree of A.M. was conferred upon her by Eckstein University.

At the age of fifteen Miss Burroughs was converted. Since that time she has been an active member of the Nineteenth Street Baptist Church. She has served as Sunday-school-teacher, librarian, and secretary of the Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor.

Miss Burroughs loves her work, which is the best assurance of success in all that she undertakes. She has occupied many positions of trust, having been employed in the office of the *Christian Banner* as a stenographer and having served as stenographer and bookkeeper of the Foreign Mission Board of the National Baptist Convention, as well as corresponding secretary of the Woman's Convention and the Auxiliary National Baptist Convention since 1900. In June, 1908, she was elected president of the National Training School for Women and Girls, an institution which she had conceived and founded. In that capacity her remarkable talents have had greater opportunity for development, and she has accomplished a vast amount of good.

The movement—instituted by her—to counteract the false impressions given by the prevalent burlesque pictures of Negroes on calendars, post-cards, and elsewhere, has been pro-

ductive of almost unhoped-for results, for the Douglass Improvement Company distributes vast numbers of the only Negro calendars in the world.

Miss Burroughs has traveled throughout America, delivering brilliant addresses before audiences of both white and colored people. She has attended two world meetings, one in London, in 1905, and one in Philadelphia, in 1911. She was a prominent speaker at both gatherings. The London *Times*, commenting on her speech at the former meeting, said:

"Miss Nannie H. Burroughs, who has become one of the most distinguished personages of the World Congress, possesses rare oratorical gifts."

And in regard to her address delivered before the Negro Congress, the Atlanta *Constitution* said:

"The best address delivered at the Young People's Negro Congress was that of Miss Nannie H. Burroughs."

In 1905 the *Western Recorder* said:

"Nannie H. Burroughs is the Negro woman who was lionized at the World Baptist Congress."

Miss Burroughs is one of the ablest speakers the race has produced. She is fearless and outspoken, forceful, persuasive, humorous at times, provoking to mirth and then with exquisite pathos melting her audience to tears

As the head of the National Training School she is demonstrating her executive ability and her strong personality makes her a moulder of young womanhood. The girls go out from the school to do ordinary things in an extraordinary manner. In three years Miss Burroughs has caused the institution to increase its holdings from a valuation of $6 000 to $35,000. It has students from every State in the Union.

Miss Burroughs' missionary work has not been the least of her deeds, and gifts of money, clothing and school supplies are contributed by women throughout the United States to be sent by her to Africa. She has written tracts and booklets on every undertaking in which women are concerned.

Being a club woman and at the head of the Young Woman's Department of the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs, Miss Burroughs is leading a life of usefulness calculated to revolutionize the present status of society.

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## *PROFESSOR CHARLES LEWIS FISHER, A.B., A.M., D.D.*

*Prize-Winner—Class Orator—Professor of Ancient Languages —Great Pastor—Safe Leader—Author—Chairman Board of University Regents.*

Professor Charles Lewis Fisher was born in Saint Bernard Parish, Louisiana, July 16, 1866. His father, Alexander Fisher, was an *ante-bellum* preacher, and his mother, Elizabeth, was a leader in religious matters among the women.

Dr. Fisher finished his college course at Leland University, New Orleans, Louisiana, in 1884, and completed his theological course at Morgan Park Seminary—now the Divinity School of Chicago University—in 1887. He was the only Negro orator at commencement. In a class of twenty-five, three of whom were colored, there were only six speakers, of whom one was colored. The priv-

ilege to speak was determined by scholarship. He received the degrees of Master of Arts and Doctor of Divinity from his Alma Mater—Leland University, in the years 1890 and 1910. The latter degree has been conferred upon him by two other schools, Natchez College, Mississippi, and Guadalupe College, Texas.

In 1893 Dr. Fisher was united in marriage to Miss Rosa J. Richardson, of Alabama. He was converted in January, 1875, and at the early age of fifteen years he knew that the Lord had called him to prepare for the ministry.

Dr. Fisher has served as pastor of the following churches: Mount Zion Church, at Little Rock, Arkansas; Tabernacle Church, Selma, and Bethlehem Church, Gallian, Alabama; Mount Helm Church, Jackson, Mississippi; Sixteenth Street Baptist Church and Jackson Street Baptist Church, Birmingham, Alabama.

In addition to his pastoral work, Dr. Fisher successfully taught at Selma University as professor of languages. He is now chairman of the Board of Trustees of Selma University, which position he has filled most creditably for fifteen years. For six years he has been moderator of Mount Pilgrim Association—the largest in the State of Alabama.

As editor of *Sparks*, a magazine devoted to the material, mental and moral uplift of all the people, Dr. Fisher has found the means of reaching a vast audience, which is greatly benefited by his teachings. The influence of the press cannot be overestimated. The admonitions of a public speaker may be heeded as long as the impression made upon the mind of the listeners remains clear; but the printed article appeals to the eye as well as the brain—its ideas are absorbed slowly, and for that reason they entrench themselves firmly in the thoughts of the reader. However, Dr. Fisher's unusual talent as an orator must not be overlooked, for he is forcible, eloquent and polished in language, wielding a mighty power over his audience.

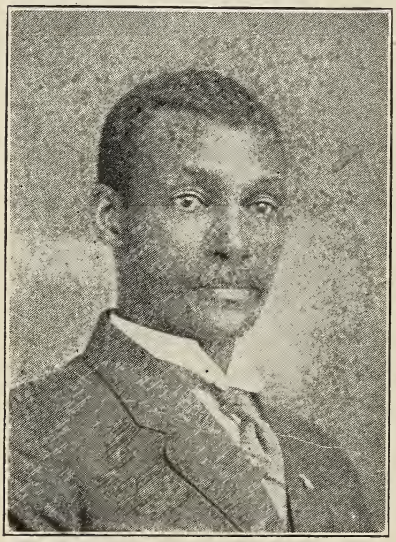
Through his own industry he has accumulated a competence, so that he is enabled to live in comfort while devoting himself to the cause of humanity. Dr. Fisher has been actuated throughout his career by the highest and best of motives —by motives that have made his success an established fact.

As a minister Doctor Fisher occupies a foremost place in the profession, distinguished for analytical precision in the preparation of sermons, quick perception and pleasing address.

## *PROFESSOR ALBERT W. PEGUES, A.B., A.M., Ph.D.*

*Farmer—Valedictorian—Missionary—University Dean—Supervisor of State School for Deaf and Blind—Presides Over 200,000 Baptists—Commencement Orator—Eminent Scholar and a Man of Great Force of Character.*

Aspiration is the spur that urges a studious lad on to glory; and when it develops early in life, the world sees a young man occupying a position ordinarily gained only after many years' preparation. "The race for fame and fortune is over a rough road, and many fall by the wayside, faint and heartsick, because of the least resistance. But only he of iron will and steady nerve wins the laurel; and when it is won honestly and justly, the plaudits of the multitude are loud and hearty."



In looking over the roll of great men who have moulded character and rounded the lives of many who are now occupying positions of trust in the world of progress, the name of Albert W. Pegues is found well-nigh at the top of the list. Born near Cheraw, South Carolina, in November, 1859, Mr. Pegues early entered a school at Cheraw, taught by Mr. H. L. Shrewsbury, who was employed by the Freedman's Aid Society. The institution ran

ten months during the year, and Mr. Pegues managed to remain in it for two consecutive years, when poverty drove him to the farm. His two years of study had so sharpened his appetite for knowledge that he read all the newspapers, books and magazines he could find; he eventually entered night school, and so determined was he to receive an education that he walked at times more than two miles to the same.

Having saved of his earnings some $200, the young man entered Benedict Institute, now Benedict College, Columbia, South Carolina, in the fall of 1876. He was converted and baptized during the summer of the following year, and in the fall of the same year entered the school with the ministry in view. In the fall of 1878 Mr. Pegues entered Richmond (Virginia) Institute, now Union University. By hard study he graduated as valedictorian of his class in May, 1882. After spending some time as district missionary under the auspices of the Missionary Baptist Convention of his native State, Mr. Pegues, in September, 1882, matriculated in Bucknell University, Lewisburg, Pennsylvania. For four years he held his own in a class of twenty-four members, standing third. In addition to his A.B. course at Bucknell, he specialized in psychology and ethics under President David J. Hill. Just before leaving Bucknell he was appointed principal of Sumner High School, Parkersburg, West Virginia. After remaining at Parkersburg for one year, Mr. Pegues was elected as dean of the College Department of Shaw University, which he occupied for seven consecutive years. While at Shaw University he raised the standard of his department, making the courses conform to those of the most advanced colleges.

Professor Pegues resigned the position as dean at Shaw University to accept the supervisorship of the State School for the Deaf and Blind at Raleigh, North Carolina, in the summer of 1902, only to be recalled to Shaw University three years later, to take charge of the Department of Theology, which position he retained for eleven years and whch he considers the most fruitful of his career; and some of the leading pastors of the Church were trained at Shaw University by Pro-

fessor Pegues, and they honor and revere him for the services he rendered.

Notwithstanding his exacting duties, Mr. Pegues has found time to take special studies at the University of Chicago and has been honored with the degree of Ph.D. Twenty years ago he published a book, "Our Ministers and Schools," which was widely circulated. In recognition of his brilliant career, Shaw University in 1903 conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Divinity. He is constantly called upon to address colleges and universities upon the leading topics of the day; and no member of the race is more conversant with educational subjects than he. He is one of the most highly educated men of the country, and his selection by Bucknell University to deliver the master's oration, 1889, was a timely recognition of the breadth of his scholarship.

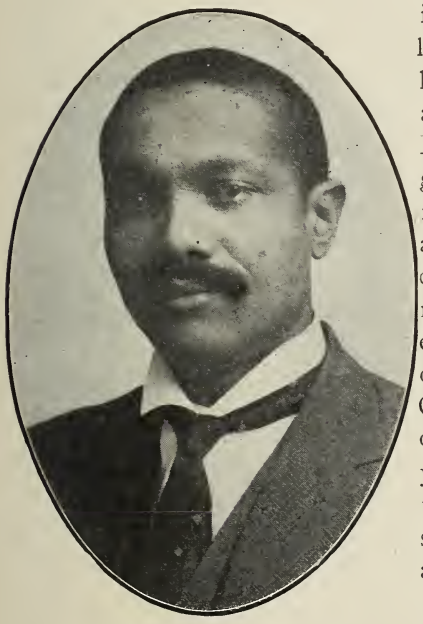
Professor Pegues is well known to Baptist organizations, and for the past twenty-five years he has been active in the North Carolina Baptist Convention, of which he is now president; and for fifteen years he has served as corresponding secretary of the Sunday-School Convention, one of the most efficient bodies of its kind in the country as well as in the "Tarheel" State. He is also recording secretary of the Lott Carey District Convention. In addition to these, Mr. Pegues is closely identified with several local industrial and financial institutions.

In 1890 Mr. Pegues was married to Miss Ella Christian, of Richmond, Virginia, an accomplished young woman, who has assisted him greatly up the ladder of Fame. Professor Pegues' prosperity is due to the strong moral influence exerted over him by his faithful mother during childhood, and to his quick recognition and acceptance of the opportunities which beckoned him. And he has not been satisfied to put his talents away in a napkin, nor his light under a bushel; instead, he has used them throughout his public career to bless humanity. "Greater love hath no man than that he will lay down his life for his brethren."

## *W. H. FULLER, A.M.*

*Recording Secretary of the Missionary Baptist General Convention—Secretary of the Educational Board—Great Executive Officer—Pleasing Speaker.*

Mr. W. H. Fuller, A.M., is a national figure among Afro-Americans. He was born near Troy, Alabama, March 8, 1874. He went to Texas in December, 1889, and located at Cameron, where he was converted in 1895 and baptized by the late Rev. Peter Diggs. He began at once to take an active part in church work and was soon chosen a deacon. His influence widened rapidly and in 1902 he was elected recording secretary of the Missionary General Convention, holding that office for eight consecutive years, resigning to accept the position of financial secretary of the Educational Board.



As a leader his slogan has ever been, "Enlightenment for the masses," and how well he has accomplished his aim is illustrated by the unusual success that has attended his efforts in his department. He inaugurated a State-wide fin-

ancial campaign by letters and newspapers, and was rewarded with 80 cents for the first year; the second year he collected $24; the third year $88; and during the first three months of 1912 the receipts for the schools of the General Convention (Guadalupe College, Seguin; Central Texas College, Waco; and Boyd's Institute, Oakwood) amounted to $15,821.97.

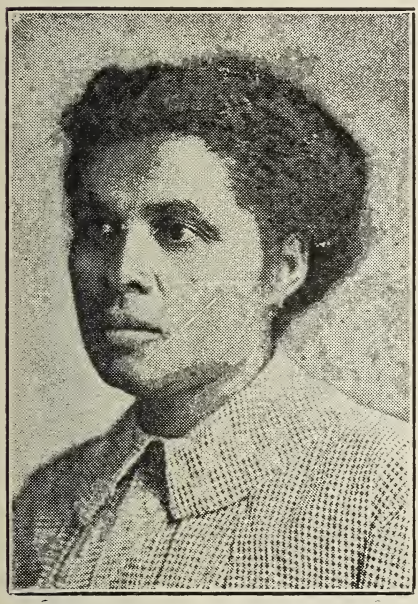
Mr. Fuller is a man of perseverance and determination. And it is through the exertions of such men—men of great strength of character, education and financial ability—that our churches and schools are built and maintained. He is a member of the National Baptist Convention, takes an active part in its meetings, and was one of the strong men who succeeded in capturing the 1912 session of that grand organization for Houston, Texas.

It is said that the soldier plucks glory from the red cannon's mouth, the statesman wins fame by his forensic eloquence, and the artisan receives praise for the superior quality of his work. And it is to this latter class that the young and gallant educator of Austin belongs. Being in the prime of life, full of vigor and push, Mr. Fuller is likely to occupy a more commanding position in the uplift of the race.

## *MRS. T. A. CASTLE.*

*Founder of Rescue Home—Missionary—Indefatigable Worker—Woman of High Ideals and Great Influence.*

One of the very representative women of Texas is Mrs. T. A. Castle, of Bryan. She is well known in the State as an apostle of temperance and a lecturer of ability. She has been for a number of years closely identified with the missionary and educational work of the Baptists. Her addresses before Sunday-school and State conventions have been quite thoughtful, and she has been received with open arms wherever she has gone. She is a woman of culture and refinement and her striking personality, reinforced with an abiding faith in God, has given her a commanding place in the hearts of her people.



Perhaps the greatest single achievement of Mrs. Castle's life has been the successful founding of the Rescue Home at Bryan, Texas, an institution that is intended for fallen girls; and the one hundred and twenty-six young inmates of that institution, some of

whom are now living upright lives, well attest the wisdom of its founder and the need of the school. Six thousand dollars have been raised and judiciously expended on an eleven-acre tract with a nine-room residence. No greater monument could be erected to the memory of a faithful servant than such an institution. And may the good that Mrs. Castle is doing for fallen girls be emulated by others until every unfortunate is housed in an asylum of a similar character.

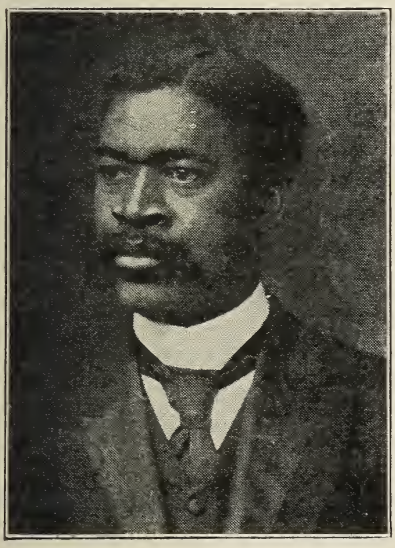
> " 'Tis hers to soothe the ills below
> And bid life's fairer views appear."—*Crabbe.*

Aside from her special mission in the rescue line, Mrs. Castle finds time to do active church work; and her services to the Baptist conventions of the State are recognized and highly appreciated by the members. Her mind being opened to light and as one to whom old-time dogmas are feasible only as they apply to the greater progress and enlightenment of the present, she inspires all who are so fortunate as to come within the sphere of her influence.

## *WILLIAM THOMAS JOHNSON, B.D., D.D.*

*A Man from the Ranks—School-Teacher—Minister—President of Friends' Orphan Asylum—Chairman Lott Carey Foreign Mission Board—Secretary Educational Board, General Association—Field Secretary United Society of Christian Endeavor.*

The Reverend William Thomas Johnson, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Richmond, Virginia, is a man of unusual ability, having risen to fame by hard knocks and heavy blows, almost single-handed and alone. His parents, Henry and Catherine Johnson, who were among the poorest of the Christian people of South Richmond, saw in their son the promise of a great man and made every effort to give him a good education. July 10, 1866, William Thomas Johnson was ushered into the world. Obedient and kind, he grew up well liked by his neighbors and encouraged by his teachers, who took much interest in him because of his good disposition and his insatiable thirst for knowledge.



Mr. Johnson graduated from the public schools of South Richmond at an early age, sustained a rigid examination and began teaching in the public schools of the county, with every prospect of success. After seven years' experience in that profession, he professed a hope in Christ, felt called to the ministry, and resigned as teacher to prepare himself for his new calling.

He entered the Richmond Institute and completed the course just as that institution became the Richmond Theological Seminary, since changed to the Union University. Mr. Johnson, who was in the Seminary at the time the writer was a student in the department of Greek and Hebrew, was considered one of the best pupils in the school; and no student bore a better reputation or applied himself more closely to his studies and other duties than he. He was not afraid of hard work and rejoiced in the fact that he was poor. He was a close observer of men and a constant reader of the lives of great characters. In 1893 he graduated at the head of his class, taking the degree of Bachelor of Divinity.

Mr. Johnson has had wide experience as a minister and is a leader among men. While in the Seminary he pastored the Mount Olivet Baptist Church, Chesterfield. Immediately after graduating he accepted a call to the First Baptist Church Lexington, Virginia. While at Lexington he was instrumental in erecting a fine house of worship, bringing the membership up to a high degree of efficiency.

Eleven years ago he was called to the historic First Baptist Church of Richmond, Virginia, which he still pastors with signal success. This church has had five thousand members, one of the largest and most influential in the South.

Aside from his ministerial offices, the Rev. Johnson has been honored by national and international organizations. He is president of the Friends' Orphan Asylum, treasurer of the Negro Baptist Old Folks' Home, chairman of the Lott Carey Foreign Mission Board, secretary of the Educational Board of

the Virginia Baptist Association, and trustee and field secretary of the United Society of Christian Endeavor.

In 1905 Rev. Johnson was sent as a delegate to the World Baptist Alliance, London, and while abroad visited many of the historic points of Continental Europe, thus broadening his vision of the world and obtaining an education received only in the school of extensive travel.

The pen of Mr. Johnson is kept busy; and the vigorous manner in which his editorials for the *First Baptist Church Journal* are written, as well as pungent articles for many secular and religious daily and weekly papers, has excited wide comment throughout the Nation.

In appreciation of his ability, the Union University of Richmond, Virginia, in 1903, conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Divinity; and he wears the honor with becoming dignity.

If success be measured by prosperity, Dr. Johnson has earned it; if success be counted by a vast number of loyal friends, Mr. Johnson has them; if success requires integrity, capability, generosity and foresight, he has them all and is a brilliant example of what they achieve.

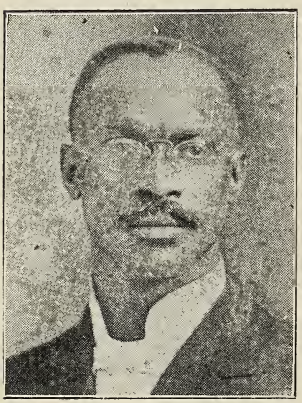
Dr. Johnson was married several years ago and owns a beautiful home at No. 110 West Leigh Street, Richmond. His wife is a graduate of Hartshorn Memorial College, and is a constant source of comfort and assistance to him in the execution of his work.

Being a man of great force of character, an orator, writer, financier, an able evangelist, who is courageous, yet judicious, Dr. Johnson may be depended upon to succeed in whatever he undertakes.

## *REVEREND I. M. HENDON.*

*Well-Known Minister—Secretary General Baptist Convention —Chairman Church Extension Board.*

The Reverend I. M. Hendon, one of the representative men of the General Baptist Convention of Texas, was born at Wharton, Texas, January 27, 1871, to Susan and A. D. Hendon. The father was for eighteen years sheriff and county commissioner, and was well known as an honorable and faithful citizen of the community.



Being aware of the fact that a man becomes successful and truly great only in proportion to the good service which he renders, Mr. Hendon resolved to prepare himself thoroughly for his chosen profession. After leaving the public schools, he entered Leland University, New Orleans, Louisiana, where he remained two years. In 1896 he became a student at Iowa Christian College, and remained in that institution until the entire course in theology was completed to the satisfaction of the faculty.

Mr. Hendon, who was converted in 1889, felt called to the ministry as early as 1893, and his ministerial career began at that time. He has served faithfully and well some of the

best pastorates in the State. Among them: Mount Zion, Orange; Live Oak, Beaumont; and Calvary Tabernacle, Paris; the last named he still pastors.

For fourteen years he was secretary of the General Baptist State Convention of Texas, being relieved of that responsible position in order that he might give his time and experience exclusively to the executive work of the Church Extension Board. In this capacity he has exhibited great ability and has brought that department of church work forward in a manner that reflects credit upon both himself and his board as well as the entire connection.

The Reverend Hendon, who is still on the youthful side of life, is capable of doing much in the way of assistance to the rising generation; and the rising generation looks to such pastors as he for those noble traits of manhood which stimulate and inspire others to attempt that which will redound to the lasting benefit of Afro-Americans everywhere.

## *REVEREND W. H. JOHNSON, D.D.*

*Popular Pastor—Well-Known Evangelist.*

The Reverend W. H. Johnson was born at Marshall, Texas, in 1874, to Frank and Ellen Johnson. He first attended the common schools of Tyler, Texas, but feeling the need of higher education, he afterward entered Bishop College, at Marshall, Texas, where he remained four years. At a later day, desiring the benefits of a post-graduate course, he took special studies by correspondence at Princeton University, Indiana.

Dr. Johnson was converted at the age of thirteen years and united with Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, Tyler, Texas. Believing that he was called to preach the gospel, he turned his attention to preparation for ministerial work, and in 1900, when he was twenty-five years of age, he was ordained, after which he officiated as pastor of four different churches. At present he is in charge of County Line Baptist Church, at Chandler. Eleven hundred persons have been converted under Dr. Johnson's preaching, five hundred of whom he baptized. He is president of the Friendship District Sunday-School Convention, which organization has accomplished great results.

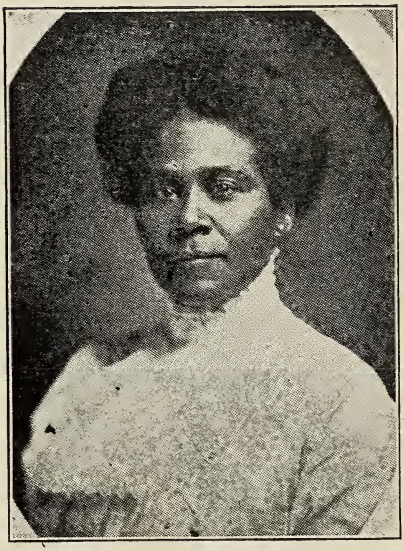
Dr. Johnson is married and has one son. The home life of the family is a powerful factor, contributing largely to the success of the husband and father in his labors among his congregation.

Dr. Johnson is not unknown as an evangelist, having been much in demand as a public speaker during religious revivals. He is well liked by both the white and colored residents of the community in which he lives.

## *MRS. JOSIE B. HALL.*

*Successful Teacher—Devout Christian—Brilliant Writer—Devoted Wife and Mother.*

Mrs. Josie B. Hall, the well-known writer, was born in Waxahachie, Texas, on September 17th, 1869, to Tennie and Henry Briggs, who were representative colored people, both industrious and pious. When eleven years of age Josie was left an orphan, under the loving care of a kind sister.



At twelve years of age Miss Briggs demonstrated that she was possessed of unusual energy and ability, for she began her career as a teacher at that time, proving both faithful and capable. She was kind, courteous, modest and virtuous.

She was converted at Bishop College, Marshall, Texas, in 1886. At sixteen she taught in the public schools of Canaan, Texas. It was during her residence there that she was united in marriage to Professor J. P. Hall, one of the leading teachers of Mississippi.

Five children have been born to Professor and Mrs. Hall, and the parents are bringing them up in the light of modern re-

ligious and educational influences. There is no doubt but that they will carry on the good work commenced by the father and mother, and that the race will reap the benefits of their mental and moral training and the sound principles inculcated by Mrs. Hall.

Mrs. Hall's book, "Moral and Mental Capsule for the Economic and Domestic Life of the Negro as a Solution of the Race Problem," has had a wide circulation. It has been read with interest by thousands of people—both white and colored—who have attempted to solve the so-called race problem. And without a dissenting voice those who have had the privilege of giving the book a thorough perusal have acknowledged that its author has dealt with her subject in a masterly way; that she has expressed her ideas in simple language, which may be easily understood by all classes of people; that she has presented her thoughts so clearly that they must of necessity be grasped by those for whom they were intended. Mrs. Hall is gifted as a poet, and some of the gems that appear in her book are well worth repeating. The lines called "Sunday" are perfect in rhyme and rhythm, and their sentiment is beautiful. What could be more restful than this?

"The day is calm and cool and still,
The fleecy clouds are drifting slow,
The morning zephyrs gently blow;
I hear the cricket sharply shrill,
Peace, good-will; peace, good-will."

Or more uplifting than this prayer?

"O God, the God of truth and love,
Send down more blessings from above;
Grant that I may be more like Thee,
And that my heart may purer be!
O God, my refuge and my light,
To do Thy will is my delight;

But when temptation fires my heart
I often from Thy ways depart.
But, Heavenly Father, hear my prayer;
Remove Thou every cloud and care,
And hide me, O my Savior, hide,
Where I can safe in Thee abide!
Help me to faithful be, and meek,
And make me strong where I am weak.
Teach me, O Lord, how I should pray,
And how to walk the narrow way."

While men in all conditions of life are endeavoring with mighty efforts to solve the problems which are of vital importance to the Negro race, Mrs. Hall, quietly and without ostentation, has prescribed the proper remedy. Her noble efforts for the moral betterment of the young have borne rich fruit, although at times the result of her labor may have seemed to be meager in proportion to the effort put forth. Her inspiring words will live and continue to help those who need assistance long after the author has been called to her reward.

## *P. H. HUGHES, D.D.*

*Evangelist—Successful Pastor.*

"Nothing succeeds like success" is well illustrated in the career of the subject of this sketch.

P. H. Hughes was born at Fluvania, Virginia, on August 4th, 1862, to John and Mildred Hughes. After finishing the course prescribed in the public schools of his county, he attended Bluefield Seminary, West Virginia. He also studied privately under Doctors Fisher and Boothe, of Birmingham, Alabama.

As pastor Dr. Hughes has occupied the pulpit of Mount Moriah Baptist Church, Birmingham; of the First Baptist Church, at Pueblo, Colorado; and his present charge in Mexico, Missouri.

His conversion and baptism occurred when he was nineteen years of age. Guadalupe College, in recognition of his services, conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Divinity in 1905.

Like many strong Afro-American ministers, Dr. Hughes has shown unusual financial ability. He has been a successful church-builder. As a public speaker he is pointed and entertaining. His judgment is excellent, and he is considered a safe, sane leader of the people, with sufficient caution to warrant their confidence, and yet having plenty of fire and enthusiasm.

The Southwest is opening up a wonderful field for religious and educational work, and Dr. Hughes, seeing the need of laborers in that new vineyard of the Lord, gave up the refinements of life in an old thickly settled State to cast his lot

with other pioneers who have the good of the race at heart. His unselfish devotion has been amply rewarded and his influence has been extended over a much larger territory than formerly. He studies the problems that come before him thoroughly and conscientiously, and after he has decided upon the proper course to take, he pursues that line diligently, thereby securing the best of results.

Dr. Hughes is in the front rank of those who minister faithfully to the needs of the race.

## *REVEREND A. M. JOHNSON, D.D.*

*Pioneer Minister—Leader of Thought—General Missionary.*

The Reverend A. M. Johnson, the subject of this sketch, was born in Yazoo County, Mississippi, October 18th, 1863. He was reared eight miles from Yazoo City, and attended the public schools, graduating from the same, after which he spent three years and six months in Walden University, at Nashville, Tennessee. He was converted and united with the Issaquama Baptist Church in September, 1880, while the Reverend P. Barnes was pastor.

Dr. Johnson was licensed to preach the gospel in April, 1881, and was ordained in August, 1881. Although his life had long been consecrated to the Master's service, his highest usefulness began with his entrance into the ministry. He became general missionary for the Baptist Convention of Mississippi, which office he filled most creditably for four years, after which he was made educational secretary, holding the position for six years. While serving in that capacity he was elected president of the General Baptist Convention and has served as executive head of that body for the past ten years. He is a graceful presiding officer and his impartial decisions and striking personality have made him quite popular.

Dr. Johnson was married in February, 1882, to Miss Clarissa Fridge. The union has been blessed by the birth of ten children, four boys and six girls. The eldest boy now living is a carpenter, and the youngest is in the tailoring business. The eldest daughter was for three years a teacher in Natchez College. She is at present teaching in the city schools of Vicksburg, Mississippi. Another daughter has entered the Training School for Girls at Washington, D. C. She is under the care of Miss Nannie Burroughs.

Dr. Johnson is deeply interested in the welfare of young people, and he has proved to be a source of inspiration to them, aiding and encouraging those who needed assistance.

It is a difficult matter in this age of the world to arouse youthful enthusiasm in church work, but Dr. Johnson is eminently successful in that respect, and during the period in which he has been identified with the church as a pastor his influence has not waned. On the contrary, it has grown stronger with years, until his name is known and honored far beyond the confines of his own State.

He has sympathized with, admonished and commended his people, always taking advantage of every opportunity to help in the development of the Afro-American race.

Dr. Johnson's high moral character, his sincerity, his earnestness and power as a speaker and his broad and sympathetic views upon all subjects have endeared him to those who have had the good fortune to come within the circle of his acquaintance.

Undaunted by obstacles, he has gone forward faithfully with reforms and improvements, trusting implicitly in Him who said: "Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the world." And he has not trusted in vain, for the results of his efforts are to be found throughout the State of Mississippi.

## *REVEREND D. E. OVER, D.D.*

*Model Pastor—Strong Temperance Advocate—Good Mixer —Excellent Financier.*

The Reverend D. E. Over, of Denver, Colorado, is noted for his strong personality and ability to bring things to pass.

He was born at Topeka, Kansas, June 10, 1873, to David and Eliza Over, who migrated West after emancipation.

After graduating from the public schools of his native city he attended Ottawa University, specializing in English and in subjects closely connected with theology. He also took a special course in the Iliff School of Theology.

Dr. Over filled the pastorate of the Third Baptist Church at Garnett, Kansas, while pursuing his studies at the University, after which he was called to the Eighth Street Baptist Church at Pueblo, Colorado, where he erected a fine church edifice. In 1909 he accepted a call to Zion Baptist Church, at Denver, Colorado. Zion Church is the leading colored church in the State. Within eighteen months he canceled a mortgage of $5,000 and purchased the fine Calvary Baptist Church building from the white people. It is one of the handsomest structures of the kind in Colorado.

During the pastorate of Dr. Over the church membership

has increased amazingly. In the first six months of 1912 he baptized about one hundred persons.

Dr. Over is devoted to the cause of temperance. He has delivered a large number of lectures on the subject and through his influence many persons have been saved from lives of debauchery. He is an advocate of law-enforcement and can always be depended upon to work earnestly and efficiently for the reclamation of those who are addicted to intemperance, as well as to use every means of throwing safeguards around the young, that they may be protected and prevented from forming the liquor habit.

Dr. Over is a great favorite socially. He is a good mixer, and has a happy faculty of saying and doing the right thing at the right time and place. He has promoted harmony, and made of the church a social center, where the people meet regularly, thus binding the members by both religious and social ties to their denomination, and encouraging them to undertake further work for the Master.

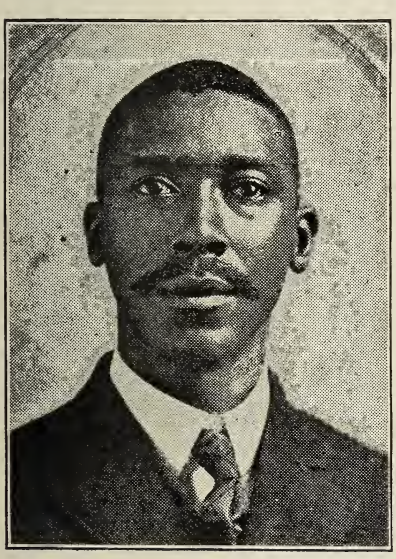
Dr. Over is still a young man and undoubtedly has a brilliant and useful future, in which he will make his mark and leave an impression upon his time and upon the Afro-American race.

Mrs. Over, formerly Miss Garner, of Kansas City, Kansas, is active in church work and is responsible to a large extent for the commendable career of her fearless husband.

## *EDWARD DONAHUE PIERSON, B.S.*

*Farmer—School-Teacher—Distinguished Mason and U. B. F.—Secretary of Many State Organizations—Treasurer of a Rich Lodge—Prominent Church Man—A Man of Means and Influence.*

Texas is proud of Edward Donahue Pierson, one of her most gifted and enterprising citizens. Mr. Pierson was born December 27, 1872, in Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana; his mother was a slave and a Baptist, while his father was a Creole and a Catholic. Mr. Pierson early joined the church of his mother's choice and entered vigorously upon religious work, after being baptized by the Rev. Peter Martin.



His support in school was a widowed mother, whose only resources were a large supply of poverty, much faith in God, and what she could earn from day to day as a hireling. Edward soon completed the common school branches, such as were taught in the irregular country schools of the State. To accomplish this, he had to use books borrowed from his more fortunate classmates, as his mother was too

poor to purchase them. Finding that he knew about as much as his incompetent teachers, and that he was needed on the farm to assist his mother, he left the school, leased land from his cousin, Leonard Prudhomme, and a rich planter, Richard Williams. Prosperity crowned his efforts, and in the eighteenth year of his age he was employing several families on his farm and making six bales of cotton to every employee and corn in proportion.

But Mr. Pierson was intended for a broader field of usefulness. So one day in the fall an excursion left his home for Marshall, Texas, and the young man got aboard. Incidentally, while making his rounds through the city, he visited Bishop College and became infatuated with it; he returned home and prepared for the disposal of all his farm implements and cattle, save his famous steed Dexter, which he later sold because of insufficient means to take the owner through school. He matriculated in Bishop on January 5, 1892, and by strict economy and through the generous aid of President Wolverton, he was able to remain in school, completing the entire thirteen years' work in seven and graduating at the head of his class with the degree of Bachelor of Sciences, May, 1904. While at Bishop College, Mr. Pierson learned the printers' trade, which has served him well in his newspaper and general printing business.

The high esteem in which this daring young man is held is well illustrated by the numerous responsible positions to which he has been called. No young man of the race has occupied so many responsible positions in so short a public career. His State looks upon him as one of the brainiest men of the present day and has frequently called upon him to hold normal schools for the training of teachers in the public institutions. Mr. Pierson has been grand secretary of the Masons of Texas; principal of Pittsburg city schools; principal of Houston College, under President D. A. Scott; secretary of the Superintendents' Division of the State Sunday-school Convention; secretary of State B. Y. P. U. Convention; treasurer

of the St. James lodge of U. B. F.s; managing editor of the *Western Star;* manager of Western Star Publishing Company; and now a teacher in the city high school. He is secretary of the Texas Business Men's League, in which capacity he has been instrumental in bringing together large Negro enterprises, thus enabling them to enjoy a commercial standing hitherto unknown.

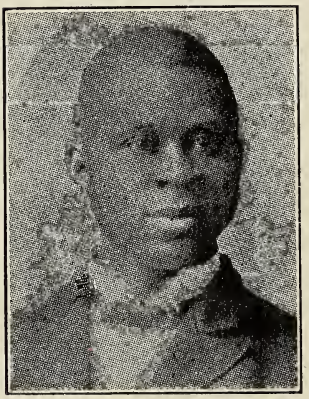
Mr. Pierson owns much real estate in the city of Houston and elsewhere in Texas. The Western Star Publishing Company, in which he is a heavy stockholder, attests his ability as financier and stands as a monument to the wise and faithful efforts of the young man. The company does a handsome printing business, and the quality of the work done in its $5,000 plant compares favorably with that of any printing outfit in Texas.

In 1896 Mr. Pierson married Miss Mae Dee Hardy, of Coffeeville, Texas, and after four years of happy union she died. He later married Miss Lizzie Lee Spears, an alumna of Allen University and a native of Sumter, S. C. To this union three bright children have been born; all are now in school, and two of them, Eulalia Viola (aged fifteen) and Theodore D. (aged thirteen), are students in the high school.

Unlike the average young man, Mr. Pierson seeks the hard and difficult things of life as stepping-stones to the higher. Success has followed in whatever he has engaged; and if pluck, tact, square dealings and what not are elements of greatness, he is really great. As deacon in Antioch Baptist Church, Houston, and as managing editor of the *Western Star*, the eight-page, seven-column organ of thousands of Baptists in the Lone Star State, Professor Pierson, young and brilliant, fearless yet congenial, is making for himself a record in the religious, business and literary world worthy a page in the history of any race.

## *T. H. EWING, M.D.*

*Tramp—Farmer—Medical Student—Original Thinker—Property-Owner—Church-Builder—Great Pastor—Progressive Citizen.*



The Reverend T. H. Ewing, the progressive pastor of the Vine Street Baptist Church, Kansas City, Missouri, is a man who thinks and acts according to the dictates of his own mind. He is peculiar in his own way, but when he is understood, one must admire him. He is a man who has risen to distinction unaided, except by the hard knocks he has received from those who tried to keep him down. Born in Kentucky, just before the breaking out of the Civil War, he was reared on a farm, where he worked hard to support himself and render such assistance to his aged mother as was possible under the circumstances. Mr. Ewing had heard much of the West and its great possibilities. But he was without means to make the trip. Finally he resolved to walk the distance. Young and full of determination, Mr. Ewing set out from Paducah, and by gradual stages made the trip within a few months. He reached Kansas City, without a dime in his pock-

et, and had it not been for the kind assistance of a friendly hand, he would have gone hungry. He made it to Leavenworth, and thence to Nebraska, where he found work, and work he did. He applied himself to study during the hours he was not employed and by such means advanced rapidly. He entered a medical college of Nebraska and graduated with honor, and for several years practiced his profession with success. He pastored the Baptist church of Lincoln, resigning to accept a call to the pastorate of the Baptist church at Leavenworth, Kansas, where he built a strong church, and remained with it for years. He became one of the town's best citizens.

Doctor Ewing was called from Leavenworth to take charge of the Vine Street Baptist Church, Kansas City, Missouri, about fifteen years ago. At the time the membership was divided into as many factions as there were members, and the property, then near Nineteenth and Tracy, was so heavily encumbered that it was threatened with foreclosure of mortgage. But Mr. Ewing gallantly set to work to disentangle its obligations. He purchased a piece of property at 1825 Vine Street, paid for it and began the erection of the present fine edifice. Since coming to Kansas City he has paid for the present property, erected a large auditorium annex, adaptable to church extension work, and has given the congregation a decided improvement in spiritual, moral and industrial uplift. The congregation is large and fluorishing, and the property of the church is valued at $25,000.

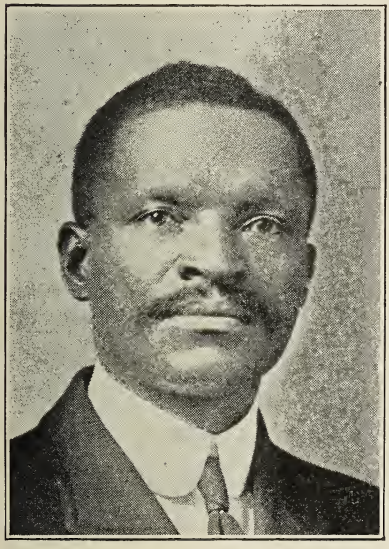
The Reverend Mr. Ewing owns considerable property, and is probably the wealthiest colored Baptist minister in the entire West.

He is a strong preacher, quite frank in his remarks, but only does so to drive home with telling effect his arguments. He likes debates and frequently engages his colleagues in some knotty theological question. He believes in organization, and there is no better organized congrgation anywhere than the Vine Street Church. If organization, push and thrift make

one great, he is surely great. He is moderator of the Kansas-Missouri Baptist Association, and has made that body strong and powerful through his wise and judicious leadership. He believes in a strong ministry, a clean life and a spirit of strict economy.

## *WILLIAM MADISON, JR., B.D., D.D.*

*Farmer—Minister—Treasurer Publishing Board—Commencement Speaker—Church-Builder.*



The Reverend Doctor William Madison, Jr., pastor of the Day Street Baptist Church, Montgomery, Alabama, has been unusually successful in the ministry. Though only forty years old, he has already established a great record as a pastor and church-builder.

Mr. Madison was born in Dallas County on April 22, 1873, and was educated in the public schools of the county and in Selma University, Selma, Alabama. During his entire college course his father gave him only three months' board and tuition. But this proved no barrier to his ambition. While Mr. Madson was only fourteen years old when he entered Selma University, he did not graduate until May, 1910, due largely to the irregularity with which he attended school on account of insufficient means. So determined was he to obtain his education that he often did chores about the school premises and occasionally preached. During vacations Mr. Madison hoed cot-

ton, split rails and ploughed mules on the farm in an effort to raise money to defray his expenses. Mr. Madison has held many important charges during his ministerial life of twenty-seven years. Bethel, Marion; First Baptist, Pratt City; and his present church, the Day Street, Montgomery, Alabama, are the most important. The membership of the latter was 500 when he assumed the pastorate in October, 1908; at present it has more than 1,100. He has recently erected a fine church edifice in Montgomery, costing more than $35,000.

Mr. Madison is a man of great piety and faith and enjoys the respect of the brethren of his State. "His faith in God gives him strength for each day's battle, and his vision is clear and he seldom blunders in the great things of life." He is at present treasurer of the publishing board of the State Convention and a member of both the National Baptist Convention and the Sunday-School Congress. He is greatly in demand as a public speaker at college commencements, and has been often called upon to deliver the commencement address before the Tuskegee Bible School.

The Reverend Madison was married to Miss Mary Solomon, of Safford, Alabama, in 1895. And she has made him a helpmeet worthy the sacred vows at Hymen's altar.

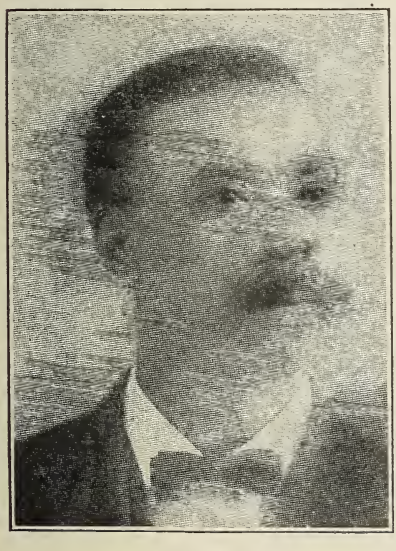
"Trained to patience and hard work, Mr. Madison has steadily forged ahead, with 'the sword of the Lord and of Gideon,' and he well demonstrates what a man who unionizes divine and human forces in spiritual conquests" may do in the advancement of society and those for whom he labors.

May the good people Mr. Madison so faithfully serves go forth to meet in like manner the struggles of life with a brave heart and confident spirit, so that when the dust settles over the battle-field of this life, they may be called to the life eternal, to join hands with their gallant leader.

## *H. M. WILLIAMS, D.D.*

*Humorist—Lecturer—Bible Student—Great Pastor—Statistician—Church-Builder—National Figure.*

On the first day of January, 1863, at the time Lincoln issued his Emancipation Proclamation, the Reverend H. M. Williams, noted lecturer and humorist, was born. And Mr. Williams, a Louisianian by birth, had to hoe his own row through life with the aid of his friends, and in spite of every disadvantage incurred by his enemies.



From early childhood he was quick of perception and took to his books "like a duck takes to water." He entered Leland University, New Orleans, quite early, and remained until graduation. He is acknowledged as one of the ablest students and orators which that famous institution has ever sent forth.

Mr. Williams, after leaving Leland, was elected principal of Hearne Academy, Hearne, Texas; and while serving in that capacity made considerable improvements to the grounds, canceled many debts, and more than doubled the enrollment.

While teaching at Hearne he was called to superintend the State mission work for the General Baptist State Convention. He aroused and awakened the people to a lively interest in missions and education as they had not been before nor since. His interest in the success of pastors, as well as his own, created for him a warm place in the hearts of his brethren, which the lapse of time has not caused to grow cold.

The Reverend Williams is moderator of the Lincoln Association, probably the oldest and most influential organization of its kind in the State. During the five years of his administration he has brought it up to a higher degree of efficiency, unsurpassed by any in the South. He has made liberal use of his superior training among those less fortunate and has unselfishly given himself to lifting up a higher standard of right-living for those among whom he has been called to labor.

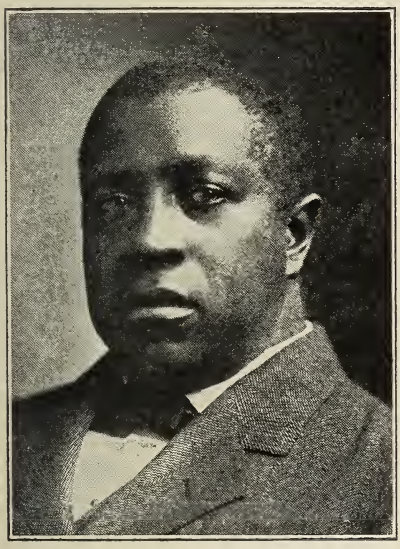
Doctor Williams is pastoring one of the best disciplined churches in the country; and it is abreast of the times, giving liberally to all reliable denominational purposes. When he took charge of the Avenue L congregation, Galveston, it immediately took on new life. His sacred eloquence, burning zeal, pungent logic and indomitable will, reinforced by a life of sacrifice, have been instrumental, during the nine years of his pastorate, in erecting a large and commodious edifice, which long ago had proven inadequate for the accommodation of its ever-increasing membership. He is a natural-born financier.

Doctor Williams is statistician of the General Baptist Convention of Texas, and in that capacity has been quite serviceable to his brethren in furnishing data concerning religious bodies of the world, let alone in his own State.

As a humorist, he is the ablest of the connection, with one possible exception. He stands out conspicuously as an ideal pastor, fearless race leader and one of the most representative men of the great National Baptist Convention.

## *CHARLES STEWART, A.M., D.D.*

*Writer—Lecturer—Humorist—Press Agent for the National Baptist Convention.*



Charles Stewart, D.D., journalist and press agent for the National Baptist Convention and the Negro race, was born to Henry and Harriet Stewart, Frankfort, Kentucky, May 28, 1869. He early showed evidence of unusual scholarship in the public school. His principal, Prof. W. H. Mayo, presented him a book on stenography, which he soon mastered from cover to cover. Early in 1883 he resolved to enter college, but was discouraged by his parents, who were quite poor. With this in view, he ran away from home on July 15, 1883, and made it to Louisville, Kentucky, where he was employed in Watson's boarding-house, morning and evening each day, for board and lodging while in attendance at the State University. The head of the boarding-house soon lost patience with the young student and "fired" him, saying that he did not educate Negroes in slavery and he did not intend to do it at that late date.

W. H. Stewart, editor of the *American Baptist,* on learning of Charles' discharge, made him collector for his paper, which position he retained while pursuing his studies. On leaving the State University he entered a business college in Chicago, in the meantime working as waiter at the Grand Pacific Hotel during odd hours, which paid his expenses through the entire course. While in college he distinguished himself as a rapid typewriter and stenographer.

On leaving college he was employed by the Biermeister & Spicer Manufacturing Company, and later became court reporter in Cook County, Illinois. It was while a reporter that he took to newspaper work. In 1910 he was a press representative at the World Missionary Conference, Edinburgh, Scotland, and while abroad visited many European capitals. He is a strong preacher, lecturer and humorist, and so greatly is he in demand that he cannot meet the calls upon his time. The *Ohio State Journal* says of him:

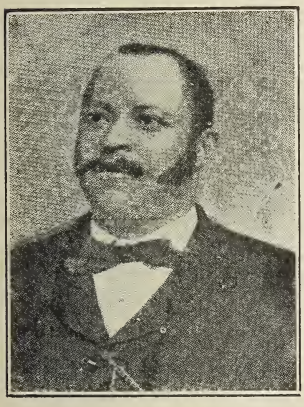
"The Reverend Charles Stewart, A.M., D.D., is press agent for the Negro race, having received his training in the offices of the *American Baptist* and the Louisville (Kentucky) *Courier-Journal.* He is well educated, versatile and a pronounced humorist, and one of the best newspaper men in the entire United States."

Mr. Stewart enjoys the confidence and respect of the entire connection and no man is listened to with greater pleasure in the national gatherings. In his chosen field, he is in a class by himself and is doing with his pen a service to the race that only a Stewart can perform.

## *J. T. CASTON, B.D., M.D.*

*Valedictorian — Physician — Faithful Shepherd — President Missouri Baptist Convention—Grand Master of United Brothers of Friendship.*

The Reverend Doctor J. T. Caston, the eminent physician of Jefferson City, Missouri, is a strong combination of the successful minister and business man. And he has, during the many years of his public career, never suffered defeat in any of his undertakings.



Doctor Caston was born in Pennsylvania, just after the close of the Civil War, and migrated to Missouri with his mother and settled in Macon more than twenty-five years ago. He became a Christian very early and united with the Baptist Church, Macon, Missouri. He was educated in the public schools of Pennsylvania, the Western College, Macon, Missouri, and Meharry Medical College, Nashville, Tennessee, taking the coveted honor of his class—the valedictory. He made the highest average of any member of the class during the entire four years at Meharry. He was later ordained to the ministry. And he is as studious to-day as he was the day he graduated. He is a man of details and is as careful in the execution of the simplest duties as he is of the more complex. Nothing escapes his unerring eye and the Quaker spirit of the Keystone State has made him one of the very strong men of the West.

Doctor Caston has had much experience in the pastorate, having served the Fulton, Macon, and the Jefferson City churches; and upon each he left the impress of his character. Long-outstanding debts were paid, improvements were made, and the spiritual and social atmosphere was greatly clarified.

Doctor Caston was elected to the presidency of the Missouri Baptist Convention about ten years ago and he has been elected continuously ever since. Through his efforts the organization has become one of the best of its kind in the country. He has increased the holdings of the Western College, Macon, Missouri, and has laid plans for a greater Western College at Kansas City. As president of the State Convention, he is modest, unassuming, yet positive and direct. He is well liked by his brethren. He is a great preacher, using none of the sensational methods so often indulged in by the dress-parade minister; instead, he is clear, logical and forceful.

Two years ago Doctor Caston was elected grand master of the United Brothers of Friendship, and so ably has he handled the affairs of that rich body that it is to-day in better shape than ever before. He is an adept in diplomacy and has never been reversed in any of his many parliamentary decisions.

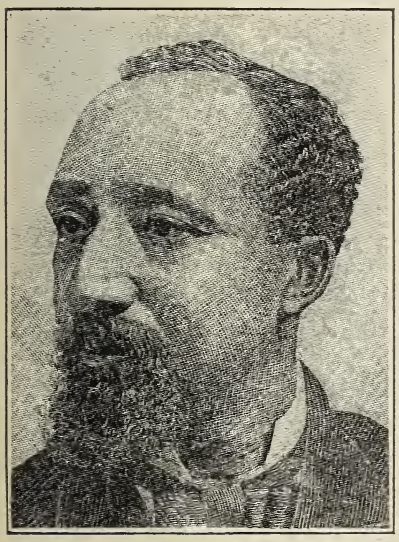
Doctor Caston enjoys a large practice in his chosen field. His patients are numerous throughout the State, and so large has his medical practice become that he was forced to move his office to the city of St. Louis and relinquish the active pastorate entirely. He is a recognized authority on medical subjects and enjoys the confidence of a large circle of eminent physicians.

Doctor Caston is married. His beloved wife is a graduate of Western College, and moves in the best church and fraternal circles. Doctor Caston is a man of means, and he uses his wealth freely for charitable purposes.

## *WILLIAM H. STEWARD, A.B., A.M.*

*Sunday-School Missionary—Editor American Baptist—Secretary National Baptist Convention—Trustee of University—Influential Citizen.*

William H. Steward was born at Brandenburg, Meade County, Kentucky, on July 26, 1847. Although a slave, he was accorded a greater number of privileges than was usually the case, and he did not hesitate to take advantage of every opportunity for the improvement of his condition.



While still a child he went to Louisville, where he attended a private school taught by competent instructors. He was a very bright boy and made rapid progress in his studies. After he had reached manhood he became a teacher in Frankfort and Louisville. Consecutively he occupied positions with railroad companies, and with the Government as letter-carrier.

In 1867 he professed religion, was baptized and joined the Fifth Street Baptist Church in Louisville. From that time forward he was an active worker, becoming secretary of the choir and teacher of the largest class in the Sunday-school,

bending every energy to making the lessons interesting and instructive. Later he was elected superintendent of the Sunday-school.

Mr. Steward has been secretary of the National Baptist Convention and secretary of the Baptist State Convention; chairman of the board of trustees of State University, Louisville, Kentucky; secretary of the board of visitors of the schools of Louisville, and subsequently chairman of that body.

Since 1879 Mr. Steward has been connected—in an editorial capacity—with the *American Baptist.* He is still an active member of the National Baptist Convention, and he is also Sunday-school missionary for the American Baptist Publication Society for Kentucky.

Mr. Steward visited London in 1905 on the occasion of the meeting of the World Baptist Alliance.

It is as editor of one of the oldest and best denominational papers that Mr. Steward has probably reached the largest number of people. He is a brilliant writer, strong and convincing, and a thorough scholar. The average newspaper is considered a most effective medium of communication, but when the periodical is so important a publication as the *American Baptist,* the number of persons brought under the influence of the editor can hardly be estimated. And it is needless to state that the columns of Mr. Steward's paper have been devoted invariably to the promulgation of right principles. He has been a faithful champion of the race, and he has employed political channels in many instances to benefit those whose welfare he has at heart.

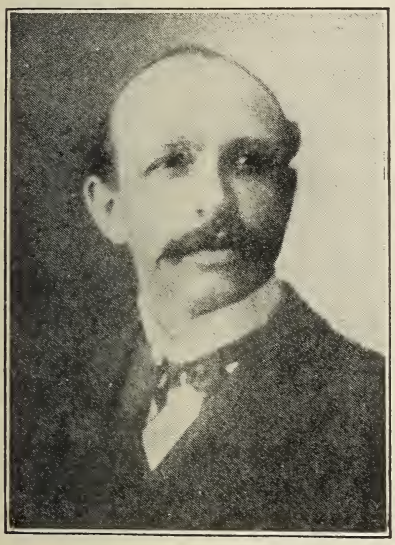
Fraternal organizations have paid him high honor, and he is recognized as a power in his community and State.

Professor Steward is married, and his wife, Mrs. M. E. Steward, is one of the most accomplished women of the race, being actively engaged in educational work. Mrs. Steward is widely known as a musician and lecturer of rare attainments. She is professor of music in the State University at Louisville and president of the Woman's Baptist State Convention of Kentucky.

## *JOHN ELIJAH FORD, B.D., Ph.D.*

*Noted Lecturer and Biblicist—Educator.*

The Reverend John Elijah Ford, the noted Biblicist of Jacksonville, Florida, was born October 21, 1863, at Owensboro, Kentucky. His parents, Isom and Anna Elizabeth Helen Ford, were slaves and had fifteen children, John Elijah being the oldest; and of the fifteen, ten have died.



Young Ford moved to Chicago at a very early age and matriculated in the public schools of that city. He made exceptionally good grades, and while in his "teens" graduated from the high school of the city, being the only colored pupil in the class. He was especially fond of Latin, and the four-years course in the high school of "The Windy City" served him well during his college life at Fisk University (1882-9) and Beloit College (Wisconsin, 1889-91). In 1891 he matriculated in the Divinity School, Chicago University, and graduated three years later with the degree of Bachelor of Divinity, being the first colored student to take that degree from the University. While in Chicago Mr. Ford served as pastor of the Bethany

Baptist Church, and he was constantly in demand as a lecturer, debater and public speaker before lyceums of the city.

He was called from Chicago to the pastorate of the Zion Baptist Church, Denver, which he accepted, while taking a post-graduate course in the University of Denver, Colorado, leading to the degree of Ph.D. in 1905. Mr. Ford is a veritable book-worm and has a great fondness for the classics, and his knowledge of Latin and Greek has made him one of the great Biblicists of the country.

In 1906 he was elected to the presidency of the State University and while acting in that capacity added new laurels to his already illustrious record. To further his study in Bible research, Doctor Ford visited Europe in 1907, taking in the great capital cities of the Old World, visiting the great libraries and museums of the universities. He returned to the States the latter part of that year and accepted the pastorate of the Bethel Institutional Church, Jacksonville, Florida, probably the finest in the South. He is still its pastor, and an assistant minister, a clerk and a large teaching force are allowed him in the prosecution of the institutional work. Mr. Ford is a trustee and an instructor of theology in the Florida Baptist College, Jacksonville, of which Professor N. W. Collier is president.

The Reverend Doctor Ford has, in addition to his pastoral work, conducted for the past few years the Bible institute work of the Sunday-School Congress, and his learned exposition of the Scriptures in simple yet choice language, reinforced with an earnestness characteristically his own, has inspired the members of the Congress to look forward to this particular feature each year with increasing pleasure.

Mr. Ford was married to Miss Justina L. Warren, a charming and talented alumna of the Galesburg (Ill.) High School, in 1893. In 1899 Mrs. Ford was graduated from the Hering Medical College of Illinois; and so thirsty was she for the best possible knowledge of the science of medicine that

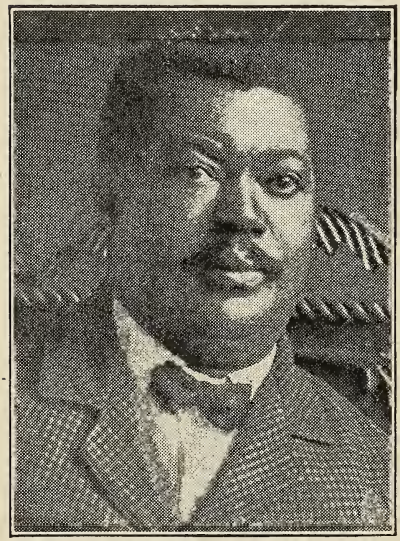
she took a post-graduate course in the Hahnemann Post-Graduate Medical College, Chicago. Mrs. Ford was instrumental in building the hospital at the State Normal and Agricultural College, Huntsville, Alabama, while engaged in the practice of medicine at that point. She now enjoys a large practice in the city of Denver and her skill is recognized by the best medical students of the Rocky Mountain State.

Some men of eloquence speak to the understanding; others speak to the imagination; while still others address the heart. But Rev. Ford has the happy faculty of speaking to all three. Being a man of great faith, reverting constantly to prayer, and with the Bible seemingly "transfused" into him, he is doing a service for the denomination that cannot be overestimated. May he continue to grow in the hearts of the people as he advances in years.

## *ALBERT PRINCE DUNBAR, D.D.*

*Farm Hand—Boy School-Teacher—Youthful Pastor—Noted Evangelist — The Founder of a Great Corporation — A Hero of Many Battles.*

The achievements of Albert Prince Dunbar bedeck the glittering pages of the history of one of the most progressive business concerns ever established by a struggling people.



Born to Reverend and Mrs. Richmond Dunbar, in a log cabin, near the swamps of Barnwell, S. C., October 25, 1859, the boy gave promise of a great man. In excess of their parental pride, he was named Albert Prince; and his career has verified the appellation, for he has proven a "great prince in Israel."

When seven years of age young Dunbar could repeat his catechism verbatim, and long before he was ten his knowledge of Webster's speller was quite equal to that of his backwoods teacher. So rapidly did he advance that it became necessary for his father to move near the town of Barnwell, where he placed his boy

in the high school, from which he graduated before he reached fifteen. After graduation he sustained a public school examination and was employed as a first-grade teacher at $50 per month.

The young teacher early professed a hope in Christ and united with the church of which his father was pastor. Later he felt called, and was licensed and ordained to the Gospel ministry in the same year. He became a power in the neighborhood as a preacher and several churches invited him to become their pastor. But he wisely refused, preferring to pursue his theological and classical studies in a college to better equip himself for the ministry.

Mr. Dunbar married Miss Sheldonia Bell Daniels, of Barnwell, at eighteen years of age, and at once disposed of his personal property and matriculated himself and wife in Benedict College, Columbia, South Carolina, where, by the timely assistance of Mr. and Mrs. Bixby, of Boston, Massachusetts, the youthful couple were enabled to remain for many years. Soon after Mr. Dunbar entered Benedict he became assistant pastor to the venerable Rev. Samuel Johnson, of First Calvary Baptist Church, Columbia, South Carolina. So well did Rev. Mr. Johnson and his good people like the young assistant that at the death of the former, Dunbar was chosen pastor of First Calvary Church—the largest in the State. He discharged with signal success and conspicuous ability the onerous duties of the church, at the same time continuing his studies at the college, making an exceptionally good record in Greek and Hebrew. During Mr. Dunbar's pastorate of eleven years at Columbia, a beautiful church edifice costing $10,000 was erected and more than one thousand members were added to the church. He became secretary of the association to which his church belonged and was made vice-president of the Baptist State Convention.

Aside from the pastorate of First Calvary, Mr. Dunbar spent ten years as minister of Fifth Street Baptist congrega-

tion, Richmond, Virginia, erected for that people a handsome edifice at a cost of $35,000 and added more than 1,200 members; served Second Calvary, Columbia, South Carolina, for ten years, built a $10,000 edifice, paid off outstanding debts and received more than 1,000 persons into its membership; administered to the spiritual wants of the Mount Olivet Baptist Church, Atlanta, Georgia, for three years, united a divided people, gave the congregation a new standing in the community and largely increased its membership, and made $8,000 improvements. Doctor Dunbar, because of the failing health of his wife, had to resign his Atlanta charge and seek a higher and better climate. He returned to Columbia.

Apart from the ministry, perhaps the greatest racial enterprise in which the distinguished Carolinian ever was engaged is the Mutual Benefit Insurance Company of South Carolina, established by himself without one dollar of capital. Under his wise management the institution has in property and cash more than $30,000, does an annual business of $50,000; and employs more than 157 agents and 8 clerks in the general office, each being an expert in his department. Although general manager of the concern, Mr. Dunbar finds the disposition to preach irresistible and even now pastors more than one country church. Acting in the double capacity of pastor and of business man, he is demonstrating by precept and example the ideals of the true leader capable of transforming the carpenter into the architect, the politician into the statesman, the priest into the prophet. Though an uncompromising Baptist, Dr. Dunbar has been honored by Allen University, the foremost institution of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, with the degree of Doctor of Divinity.

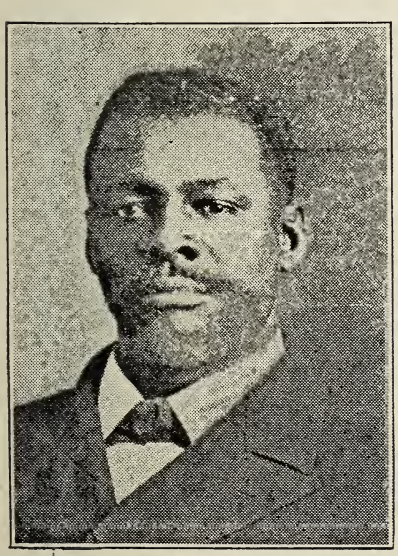
From the backwoods of South Carolina, where he was reared on the farm, ploughing a sleepy-eyed Georgia mule, the subject of our sketch has risen to fame and distinction in the business and financial as well as in the religious world worthy the emulation of every ambitious boy.

In discourse he is thoroughly practical, deeply thoughtful, convincingly logical and irresistibly persuasive. The ignorant ones are held as spell-bound by his preaching as the more intelligent, and the 7,787 souls baptized by him give him a place among the soul-savers that is equaled by few in the ministry.

## *AARON WESLEY MOSS, D.D.*

*Pastor—Treasurer Foreign Mission Convention—Member of Executive Board E. and M. Convention of Texas—Delegate to World Baptist Alliance, London, England.*

The Reverend Aaron Wesley Moss, D.D., has occupied many prominent places as minister during his long public career. And in each of them he has stood for all that was uplifting and noble. He is an Alabamian by birth, having been born on January 21, 1854. His parents migrated to Mississippi in 1866, and one year later their son, Aaron, was converted and united with the Baptist church, under the pastorate of Rev. P. W. Waldon.



During 1874 Mr. Moss felt called to the ministry and was licensed as a local minister; seven years later the Mount Carmel Baptist Church, near Macon, Mis-

sissippi, called him to ordination. The young man served that church for three years, resigning to accept a more lucrative field at Canton. Having gained much notoriety as a good minister, Reverend Moss had to divide his time between the Canton and Livingston churches for several years, finally giving up the pastorate in Mississippi, and accepting a call to the Ebenezer Third Baptist Church, Austin, Texas, and later entering upon the pastorate at Gainesville, Texas.

The Reverend Mr. Moss was at one time treasurer of the Foreign Mission Convention, and was a board member of both that convention and of the Missionary and Educational Convention. It was Mr. Moss who gave the Northwestern Association of that State ten years of very acceptable service, and it was during his administration as moderator that it flourished as never before nor since. It was while Doctor Moss was serving as pastor of the Bethlehem Baptist Church, Tyler, that he was sent as a delegate to the World Baptist Alliance, London, England, in 1905. On his return to the United States he was elected to the superintendency of Sunday-school missions for Texas, which position he held for one year. He returned to the pastorate and served El Bethel Baptist Church of Dallas for seven consecutive years. He later was called to Griggs Chapel Baptist Church of Dallas, in which capacity he still serves.

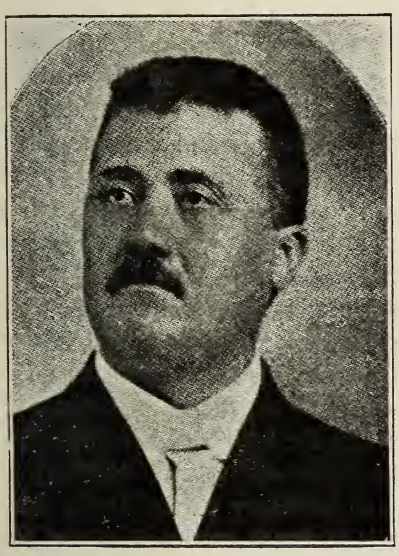
Mr. Moss was married to Miss Josephine Ferguson, December 8, 1881. The union has proven a happy one and the two bright children—Priscilla and Haywood Ferguson—have already given evidence of useful lives. Mrs. Moss feels proud of the record her husband has made, and the Doctor congratulates himself upon his happy life's choice, who has aided him in his every effort.

As a theological student of Jackson College, Jackson, Mississippi, and as one among the many having received the degree of D.D. from Guadalupe College, Seguin, Texas, the public has a just right to expect even greater things from Mr. Moss during the remaining years of his natural life.

## *PROFESSOR J. M. CODWELL.*

*Member City Council—Member County Board of Examiners —Editor of The Western Star—Educational Secretary —Assistant Secretary of the National Baptist Convention.*

The newspaper is a moulder of public opinion; and he who sends forth his convictions through its spicy columns, dealing with the great live issues of the day, especially when they are discussed with an eye single to the common good of all the people, will rise to a place of prominence where he may reap the full reward of his endeavors.



Professor J. M. Codwell, formerly of Navasota, Grimes County, Texas, now a resident of Houston, is a journalist of rare distinction, and is considered one of the best editorial writers of Texas. While fearless and outspoken, he recognizes merit even in his foes; and uses his great paper to defend principles rather than men. Mr. Codwell was born in Navasota, and educated in the public schools and colleges of his State. He was considered a very bright boy by his teachers and was of-

fered every encouragement to his ambition. He early learned to wield a vigorous pen while in school and the high position he now holds in the newspaper world is the goal of his childhood ambition.

Mr. Codwell became a Christian early in life and connected himself with the Baptist church of Navasota. He always took an active part in Sunday-school work, and his services were freely given in that department of church work.

So prominent did Professor Codwell become and so rapid was his rise in the community that the colored citizens elected him to the city council of Navasota, which position he filled to the satisfaction of his fellow-citizens. While in the council he secured needed legislation for his constituents.

Mr. Codwell became prominent in the educational affairs of Grimes County. He taught public school in the county, and so well was he liked by his constituents that he was made a member of the board of examiners for the county; and he held his own among his white associates and was respected and honored by every member of the board.

When the Baptist Educational and Missionary Convention of Texas was organized, it needed a great organ to expound its principles and defend its every interest. The Western Star Publishing Company was organized and J. M. Codwell was placed in the editorial chair; and how well he has filled the position is demonstrated by the large circulation, the increased interest in the conventional work and the commanding position the paper occupies in the field of journalism.

This brilliant young educator is educational secretary of the Educational Convention and secretary of the Texas Sunday-School Convention. He is assistant secretary of the National Baptist Convention and no man has occupied that high office with greater efficiency.

Professor Codwell is in the prime of life; a journalist of conspicuous ability, a race advocate of the first magnitude, a diplomat and leader in the affairs of the denomination. Til-

lotson College has never sent forth an abler man to lift up a standard for the people; nor the Lone Star State a braver son to tell the story of a rising race only fifty years from slavery.

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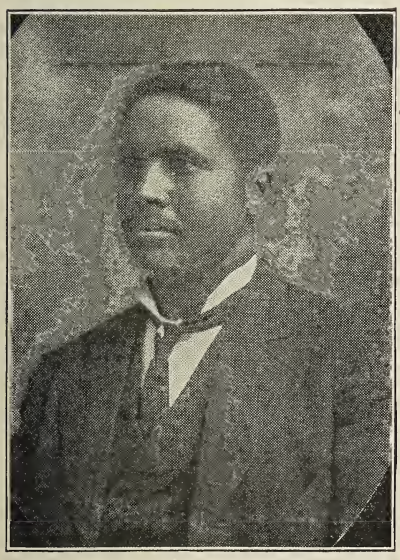
## *J. H. HENDERSON, B.D.*

*Farmer—Student—School-Teacher—Strong Pastor.*

The Reverend J. H. Henderson was born in Louisiana of slave parents, who strove to give their son a good education, though under circumstances most trying. Young Henderson, being naturally bright and thrifty, soon passed through the grades of the public schools of his home town. Financially unprepared to pursue his studies in a higher institution after graduation, Mr. Henderson worked on his father's farm for a while and engaged in teaching private classes at night. He continued to study and within a few years had saved enough money to enable him to enter college.



He early professed a hope in Christ and united with the Baptist church. Very soon thereafter he felt called

to the ministry and the local congregation licensed him to preach. Later he was ordained. He next entered the Virginia Union University, and after three years of hard study graduated with the degree of Bachelor of Divinity. He at once returned to his native State and was called to the pastorate of Trinity Baptist Church, Shreveport, La., and to the principalship of the Thirteenth District Academy. Both congregation and school thrived under his administration. For a short time he served the Mendon (La.) Baptist church with much success.

In 1913 Reverend Henderson was called to the Roanoke Baptist Church, Hot Springs, Arkansas, where he still serves the people with signal success. His present congregation is one of the best in Arkansas and stands for all that makes for the best interest of the community.

Mr. Henderson is known nationally and takes a leading part in every phase of denominational and racial enterprises. He is a strong pastor and a good preacher—fearless and independent in manner.

Mr. Henderson is married, and is the father of four promising children. Mrs. Henderson, congenial and pleasing, is ever faithful in the discharge of the duties imposed upon her as the companion of a well-deserving minister. May the years of this youthful minister and his loving wife be many, and may they continue to grow in favor in the hearts of their people.

## *REV. CHARLES GENTRY FISHBACK, A.M., D.D.*

*Waiter—Successful Pastor—Church-Builder—Field Secretary of Foreign Mission Board, National Baptist Convention.*

Rev. Charles Gentry Fishback, Jr., comes from a family of good preachers. His father, Charles G., was a pioneer minister of Winchester, Kentucky, the birthplace of our sketch. Young Fishback was early taught to know the Lord, and his pious mother, Mrs. Letitia Fishback, like her venerable husband, spared no pains to rear their talented son "up in the way he should go." While the boy was still under their fostering care, the parents sent him to Louisville, where he entered the State University. He was a hard student, applying himself to his books, and succeeded in graduating from the department of theology in May, 1898, when he took the degree of B.D. Norton University, Cane Spring, Kentucky, conferred A.M. upon him in June, 1902. Since leaving college he has continued his studies and is considered a very able minister. He is earnest, eloquent and logical in the delivery of his sermons.

Reverend Fishback began life as a hotel waiter in Louisville and Winchester. He was not ashamed to do with his might whatever his hands found to do; because of which spirit he was able to assist himself through school.

When Mr. Fishback left the State University he was called to the pastorate of State Street Baptist Church, Bowling Green, Kentucky. For seven years he labored earnestly with the people of that community, during which he rebuilt the church edifice and gave the membership a large increase and a better financial standing in the community. He was called from Bowling Green to Topeka, Kansas, where he entered upon the pastorate of the Shiloh Baptist Church, once pastored by the eloquent Dr. W. L. Grant. He is still in charge of the congregation, which is large and intelligent. It does active missionary work under the supervision of Dr. Fishback.

In connection with the pastorate, Rev. Fishback does considerable foreign mission work for the Foreign Mission Board, of which he has been field secretary for a number of years. He is one of the very successful men raising money for the Board. At one time he was offered a large salary to give his entire time to foreign missions, but he declined, feeling it was not proper to leave a great church at this time, where his services were so much in demand.

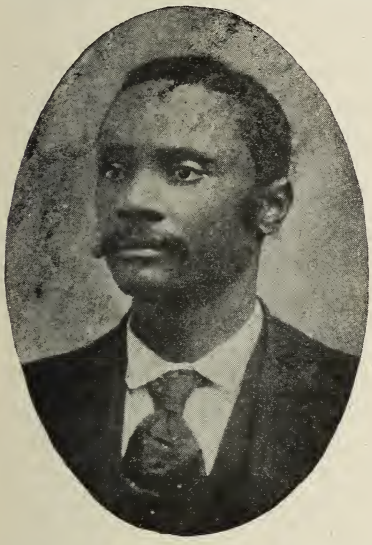
Reverend Fishback has attained some distinction as a writer. He has written much for various magazines and weeklies. He is the author of a booklet, "The Uncrowned Queen," which has had a large sale and has proven quite popular.

Still young in years, having risen to a prominent place among Baptists of the United States, willing and earnest, far-seeing and courageous, Reverend Fishback will doubtless add many more bright pages to his already well-filled history. Reverend Fishback is married and has a family.

## *REVEREND ZACHARIAH TAYLOR PARDEE.*

*A Landmark of History—A Prince in Israel—Organizer of the First Negro School in Texas.*

"The race is not given to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, but unto him who endures unto the end."



The man who may justly lay claim as the pioneer of Baptist missions in the Lone Star State is the Rev. Z. T. Pardee, of Dallas, Texas. He has had long and varied experiences as a minister and the number of churches and missions organized by him exceed by far that of any other, white or black, in the State. Mr. Pardee was born in Sparta, Georgia, March 1, 1839, to Mr. and Mrs. John Oliver. His first owner, John Andrews, sold him to Samuel Pardee in 1850, and Pardee sold him in 1857 to one William Griggs, who kept him until the close of the Civil War. He was not brought to Texas until he was quite a young man, and he has alternately lived in Corsicana and Dallas.

Mr. Pardee was converted on March 1, 1862, exactly at the age of twenty-three. He was baptized by Rev. Prairie,

at Chatfield Baptist Church, which body licensed him to preach in 1865. Revs. Joseph McCullough, D. G. Biggins and Josiah Leak later ordained him at the same church. His field of labor covers a wide territory, and the Lord blessed his labors with abundant success. He was instrumental in organizing two churches, and remained with them until they became strong and mighty. Corsicana, Good Hope, Mount Zion, Hopewell, Hester, Samaria, Runnels Chapel, St. Paul, Enis, and St. Mark, Dallas, are among some of the leading ones. Brother Pardee served as moderator of the Friendship Association for a number of years, and for fourteen years acted as treasurer of the Missionary and Educational Convention. In 1883 he was unanimously chosen superintendent of missions, but declined. He has served as president of the Mercantile Association of Corsicana for many years, and during his incumbency no man worked harder to bring about good results in the association.

Rev. Pardee assisted in the ordination of many great ministers during his long pastorate. Among them Revs. Felix Gary (deceased), C. Kelly, C. Jones, H. Holland, F. H. Harrison, A. R. Griggs, S. E. Griggs, Sr., E. T. Allen, L. Moore, W. McIveen, W. R. Banner, G. W. Walker, V. Walker, Wm. Ervine, A. W. Walker, James Lewis, and others. Thousands have been converted under Rev. Pardee's preaching and many have been baptized. Says he: "I have traveled on foot thirty miles a day and preached two sermons. It was common in those pioneer days to walk seven and eight miles to church. I am now in my seventy-fourth year, and am trying not to allow a Sunday to pass without attending some Sunday-school and preaching somewhere."

Rev. Pardee was married to Miss Ella Griggs twice—once before the Civil War, by Rev. Charles Kerr, a Methodist minister, July 16, 1862, and since by Rev. Josiah Leak. Fifteen children have been born to the aged couple, all dead except six, one of whom is Rev. R. T. Pardee, now pastoring at Corsicana; the remaining five are girls—Christian workers. Truly

Rev. Pardee is a landmark of history, a great man in Israel, with a great past and an honorable present:

"How beautiful is it for man to die
Upon the walls of Zion! To be called,
Like a watch-worn and weary sentinel,
To put his armour off, and rest in Heaven."

—*Willis.*

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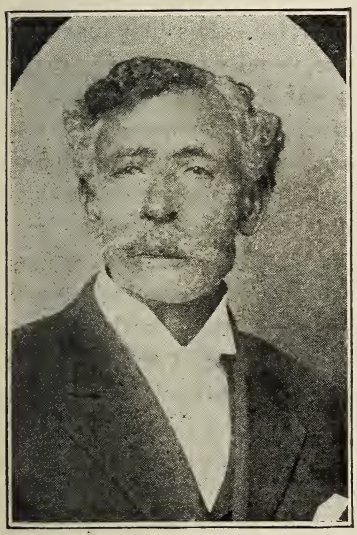
## *REV. WILLIAM MASSEY, D.D.*

*Pioneer Minister—Faithful Servant—Ex-President Baptist Missionary and Educational Convention.*

The Reverend William Massey has had much experience during his long career, not only in the ministry, but in slavery, undergoing some very sad afflictions while the chains of oppression dangled from his bleeding feet as he prayed to that God who always answers prayer. He was born in Culpepper County, Virginia, in 1844. His mother was Mrs. Mildred Thompson, while his father was unknown to him. He was sold from his mother in Richmond, and carried to Tennessee, by one Dr. Allen M. Hall. Mr. Hall sold him to one Mr. John R. Massey, who in turn sold him to a planter named J. B. Sterling, at Green-



ville, Mississippi. His master paid $1,658 for him. He was kept busy on the farm until the Civil War broke out, when he made a dash for liberty. He got as far as Memphis, but was captured and returned to his owner, who made his feet fast in the stocks. "A log and chain were placed upon my legs and I was forced to drag them around," said Mr. Massey. "During this sad experience of 1859 I professed a hope in Christ and my master licensed me to preach." When Fort Spauist and Mobile surrendered to the Union soldiers, Mr. Massey succeeded in joining a brigade of 7,000 men and went with them to Mobile, thence to New Orleans, Red River, Mississippi, Shreveport, Louisiana, Marshall, Texas, and Alexandria, Louisiana.

At the close of the war he joined Bethesda Baptist Church, Marshall, from which body he was ordained in September, 1867, by a presbytery of white brethren, among whom were Dr. A. E. Clemons and Rev. T. L. Scruggs and several deacons of the white Baptist church.

Reverend Massey was twice married. His first marriage before the Civil War produced one daughter, who for many years taught school in Texas. He was sold from his wife during slavery and married again after the freedom of slaves. Three children, all living, have been born to the second union.

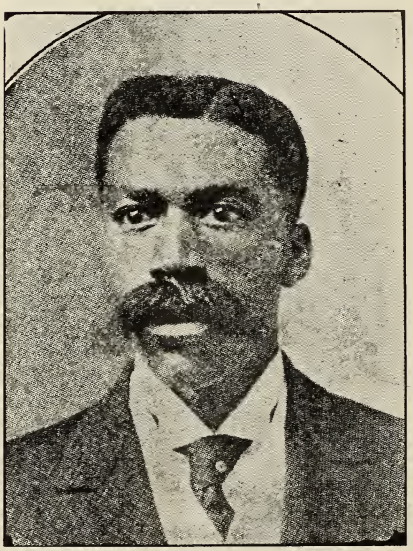
The ministry of Reverend Massey covers many years, during which his services proved invaluable, especially to the Missionary Baptists, who at that time had but very few consecrated men in the field. He did both pastoral and evangelistic work. He went forth as a pioneer. He pastored the church at Marshall for ten years; from Marshall he located at Waco, where he did very commendable work for four years. The Calvert church called him for six years, where his work was favorably spoken of. Austin, Navasota, Cold Springs, Weatherford, Pilot Point, Denison, San Angelo, and other important points used him successfully for a number of years as their pastor. During his long career more than 3,000 persons have been con-

verted and more than 2,500 have been baptized. Rev. Massey was at one time moderator of St. John Association and served as president of the Missionary and Educational Convention of Texas for fourteen years. Because of Rev. Massey's work in the ministry, his wise leadership, his deep piety and thorough Christian life, a Presbyterian college and Guadalupe College, Seguin, conferred upon him the degree of D.D. He is a life member of the National Baptist Convention and at one time served as one of its vice-presidents. He is a great man in the Baptist church.

## *J. A. MARTIN, D.D.*

*Good Pastor—Earnest Worker—Representative Member of the Alabama Baptist State Convention.*

The Reverend J. A. Martin, successful pastor at Selma, Alabama, was born, reared and educated in that State. He comes from a noble family of farmers, industrious and honest. His parents gave him a course of training at Selma University, from whose theological department he graduated. After graduation he entered the active pastorate in that city, and success has followed his every effort. Reverend Martin has a large, influential and progressive congregation, one of the leading congregations in Alabama. Doctor Martin is married and has several lovely children, two of whom are studying in Selma University. Reverend Martin is held in high esteem by the brethren of his State and has been intrusted with many responsible positions as the reward of faithful toil.



Being a man of character, push and capability, he has not been willing to put his talents away in a napkin for safe keep-

ing, but has freely given them to better the lives of others. Truty he is a worthy representative of Alabama State Convention, which will yet call him to a more exalted station.

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## *JOHN LANGE, JR., ESQ.*

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*Steer-Driver—"Educated in the Woods"—Business Man—Manager Blind Boone Concert Company—Benefactor—Capitalist and Uncompromising Baptist.*

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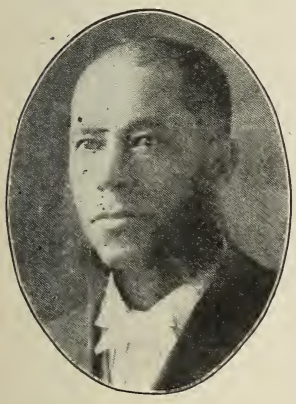
Kansas City and the West are fortunate in justly claiming as their own distinguished citizen, Mr. John Lange, of the famous Blind Boone Concert Company. He was born in Harrisburg, Kentucky, October 4, 1840; and was brought to Missouri, and settled in Columbia, by his master, about sixty-five years ago. John Lange, Sr., was born in Baton Rouge, Louisiana; while young Lange's mother, Louisa, came from Atlanta, Georgia. No one struggled harder against odds than did young Lange during his youthful years. Asked where he was educated, he replied: "In the woods." And it was in the wild forest that he obtained a foothold that has made him one of the leading Afro-American financiers. After emancipation he began life as a wood-chopper and steer-driver, and often carted wood to town. Many a day in the pitiless glare of a sun that sent the mercury bubbling over the



100-mark, making clothes a burden and a bath a luxury, Mr. Lange, with back bare and feet naked, laid siege to some giant oak. Within two days he erected and moved into his first log hut, the sweet memories of which he cherishes even to-day.

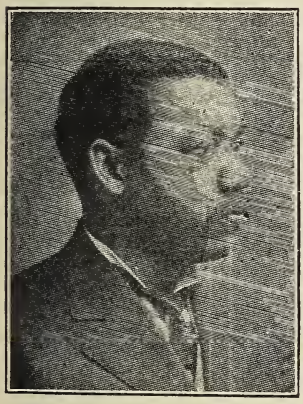
Thirty-three years ago he organized the famous Blind Boone Concert Company, of which he is still the efficient manager. The present members of this excellent company are: Blind Boone, the musical prodigy; Miss Emma Smith, soprano; John Lange, manager; and a few others. The company has traveled extensively over many parts of North America and is recognized as the best and most substantial musical organization of its kind in the world. Mr. Lange is essentially a business man and has accumulated a great fortune by applying himself diligently to his chosen field of labor. Asked about his financial standing some time ago, he replied: "My financial standing is worth a hundred cents to the dollar." He owns much residence and business property in Kansas City and elsewhere in Missouri. Mr. Lange is a philanthropist, giving freely to charitable institutions. The Second Baptist Church and Old Folks' Home of Kansas City, and the Second Baptist Church, Columbia, Missouri, have been special objects of his benevolence. Every summer he makes it a custom to look up the poor in and around Kansas City, and render unto them such assistance as they may need.

In religion he is an uncompromising Missionary Baptist, and is a regular attendant at the Sunday services of the Second Baptist Church when he is in the city. He is a man of his word and of unusual ability, persistence and unflagging enthusiasm, and an "example of sturdy success-crowned determination worthy of emulation by those whose efforts are as indefatigable and whose aspirations are as lofty." He is a High Pythian and a faithful member of the Masonic fraternity. Men like Mr. Lange and Blind Boone are valuable to any community and are potent factors in the solution of the knotty problems confronting the Negro race.

## *JOHN MITCHELL, JR.*

*Newsboy — Prize-Winner — "The Gamest Editor Upon the American Continent"—President of Mechanics' Bank—Grand Chancellor of Knights of Pythias—Member American Bankers' Association.*

Right in the capital of the Confederacy, where the boys in blue drove the boys in gray from their trenches to their Waterloo at Appomatox, the subject of our sketch was born. And it was there he was reared and educated and to-day enjoys the distinction of being the bravest and most successful newspaper editor of the Afro-American race.



John Mitchell, Jr., was born July 11, 1863, in the city of Richmond. His mother was a seamstress, while his father was a coachman. Young Mitchell very early showed ambition for leadership and ability to do that which other boys considered impossible. He was daring and absolutely fearless. He attended the public school at an early age, and while doing so became a waiter in a hotel owned by a Negro-hater, named Lynch. He later became a newsboy and sold copies of the *Evening State Journal*. He was prepared for the high school under the tutorage of Dr. A. Binga, Jr., and in 1876 entered the Normal High School, from which he graduated at the head of his class in June, 1881. While in the high school he drew a

map of Virginia, pronounced by competent judges the best production of the kind ever drawn by any student, white or black, in the State. He was awarded a gold medal for the same, on commencement day, by the Hon. A. M. Riley, then minister to Austria. "He has since drawn a map of Yorktown, surrounded by dignitaries of the Revolutionary War. It resembles the finest steel engraving, and would be readily taken for such. Mr. Mitchell has never received any lessons in the art and this makes it the more surprising." He is recognized as one of the greatest newspaper artists of any race. He is a member of the British Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Mr. Mitchell is a *great* orator and debater, and while a student made quick work of the boys who dared to face him in the forum. He won a gold medal for oratory while a student in 1881.

It is as editor of the *Planet* that John Mitchell has been most successful. He assumed the editorship of the paper on December 5, 1884, after relinquishing the position of correspondent for the New York *Freeman*. And the *Planet* has grown steadily in the hearts of Afro-Americans until to-day it is the most widely circulated paper of its kind among Negroes. Though Mr. Mitchell is a member of the First Baptist Church, Richmond, and has occupied many prominent positions in the Baptist State Convention of Virginia, he uses the columns of his paper to defend principles rather than men and creeds. He "hews to the line, let the chips fall where they may." It matters not whether in church, secret society or political party, he is merciless in his denunciation of corruption. And he is bravery personified, and has been styled "the gamest Negro editor on the Continent." He has offered his life in defence of innocent victims of race prejudice upon several occasions. On February 22, 1887, the New York *World* said: "One of the most daring and vigorous Negro editors is John Mitchell, Jr., editor of the Richmond *Planet*. The fact that he is a Negro and lives in Richmond does not prevent him from being

courageous, almost to a fault. He is a man who would walk into the jaws of death to serve his race. . . . . His pen seems dipped in vitriol and his words are hurled with the force of Milton's Satan, whom we find described as having such strength that his spear, to equal which the tallest pine hewn on Norwegian hills to be the mast of some great admiral were but a wand."—*Simmons' "Men of Mark."*

Mr. Mitchell has the largest Negro printing plant in America, with the single exception of the National Baptist publishing outfit at Nashville, Tennessee. He is president of the Mechanics' Bank of Richmond, an institution that stood like Gibraltar against the run caused by the failure of the True Reformers' Bank in the same city a few years ago. He is the only Negro member of the American Bankers' Association. Mr. Mitchell is a Pythian and is grand chancellor of that order in the State of Virginia. May his brilliant career continue for many years to come and he eventually "lie down to pleasant dreams" as one of the world's great immortals.

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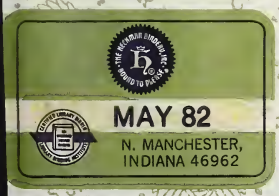
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